

STAR WARS

DARK EMPIRE TRILOGY

Scripts by John Whitman

Based on a story by Tom Veitch

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STAR WARS: DARK EMPIRE

AUDIO ADAPTATION TRANSCRIPT

by Christopher “Nightowl” McElroy

Based on an audio adaptation of “*Star Wars: Dark Empire*,” a six-issue comic book miniseries published by Dark Horse Comics in 1991. Audio Adaptation produced by Highbridge Audio, Inc.

Comic version written by Tom Veitch

Audio version adapted by John Whitman

**A long time ago,
in a galaxy far, far away.....**

DARK EMPIRE TRILOGY

TAPE ONE/SIDE ONE

NARRATOR: *Star Wars: Dark Empire.*

Music: Star Wars Main Theme.

NARRATOR:

Following the deaths of Darth Vader and the Emperor and the destruction of the second Death Star, the Rebel Alliance proclaimed a New Republic over three-fourths of the galaxy. But without the thousands of Jedi Knights who formed the backbone of the Old Republic, the new confederation was a precarious one. Long years of struggle followed, during which Imperial factions gained control over a fourth of the Galaxy. Whole systems became fortresses, bristling with firepower.

Then, five years after the Battle of Endor, the infamous Grand Admiral Thrawn mounted a terrible assault, nearly bringing the fledgling Republic to its knees. Ultimately, Thrawn was defeated. But within days of his downfall, surviving members of the Emperor's Ruling Circle staged a stunning assault on the Emperor's throneworld, a planet called Coruscant, and that vital system once again fell under Imperial control. It seemed certain that a new Empire was about to emerge from the ashes of the old. That very possibility triggered

a ferocious civil war among the numerous Imperial factions. Who would sit in the Emperor's throne? Who had the right--and the might?

Meanwhile, the Rebels were quick to seize the opportunity to sow confusion among the feuding Imperials, using two captured Star Destroyers to stage hit-and-run sorties into the war zones. One such raid, over the raging Imperial City battleground, ended in disaster: The Alliance Star Destroyer *Liberator*, commanded by Luke Skywalker and Lando Calrissian, crash-landed on the planet's surface. As our story opens, Princess Leia Organa and her husband Han Solo have left their two children in safekeeping, and together with the Wookiee Chewbacca and the protocol droid C-3PO, are on a daring mission to rescue their fallen comrades...

DARK EMPIRE TRILOGY

SCENE 1-1 INT. *MILLENNIUM FALCON* COCKPIT

Sound: The roar of the Falcon's engines. An alarm goes off.

LEIA: Han, the navicomputer just reported extreme turbulence at our reentry coordinates over the Imperial City!

HAN: That'll be battle debris, Leia! The whole Imperial sector is littered with it! Warn the other ships!

Sound: Intercom activates.

LEIA: This is the *Millennium Falcon*. *Rebel Star*, *Antares Six*, do you copy?

CAPTAIN SNUNB: (V.O. over comm.) We copy you, *Millennium Falcon*. *Antares Six* here.

CAPTAIN NEVA: (V.O. over comm.) *Rebel Star* here, over.

LEIA: We're coming up on some spatial distortions ahead. Our scanners show lots of orbital wreckage. Stay sharp--those big Frigates you're flying aren't as maneuverable as the *Falcon*.

CAPTAIN SNUNB: (V.O. over comm.) We copy that, *Falcon*. We're right behind you.

HAN: Chewie, get ready to cut in the sublight engines. Energize repulsorlifts. Prepare to exit hyperspace.

CHEWBACCA: ROARS IN ACKNOWLEDGEMENT.

THREEPIO: Sir, the odds of collision with that amount of spacial debris are 3,722 to 1....if I may suggest--

HAN: Chewie, watch your thrusters!

CHEWBACCA: ROARS.

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HAN: And remind me to crosswire Threepio's voice synthesizer when we get back to base.

THREEPIO: But sir, if I may say so--

LEIA: Threepio, sit down! Five seconds to reentry!
Four.....three....two.....

Sound: The Falcon leaves hyperspace.

HAN: Starship wreckage dead ahead!! Bank right!

Sound: The Falcon swerves to avoid collision.

CHEWBACCA: GRUMBLES.

HAN: I see it, I see it, Chewie. Lucky I just brought the *Falcon's* thrusters up to maximum specs, or we'd be sliced and diced like space slugs in a servo.

LEIA: (awed) There must be hundreds of wrecked ships out here. The battle must have been incredible.

HAN: Leia, the other ships are coming out of hyperspace. Those big Frigates'll never get through this wreckage.

Sound: Leia activates the intercom again.

LEIA: *Rebel Star, Antares Six*, this is the *Falcon*. There is too much debris here. Come around to 02. That's 02. You'll find a gap in the wreckage.

CAPTAIN NEVA: (V.O. over comm.) Negative, *Millennium Falcon*. We can make it, we can--

REBEL STAR OFFICER: (V.O. over comm.) *Watch it-- Maximum thrust!! HARD LEFT, HARD LEFT--*

Sound: A massive explosion as the Rebel Star collides with a wreck and is blown to bits.

DARK EMPIRE TRILOGY

CAPTAIN SNUNB: *Millennium Falcon*, *Rebel Star* just vanished in a ball of flame...

LEIA: Captain Neva's Frigate is hit!

HAN: We've got to go back and help them--

LEIA: (distant) It's too late...none of them survived.

HAN: Are you sure?

LEIA: Han...I feel it. Through the Force. I'm sure.

CAPTAIN SNUNB: *Millennium Falcon*, this is *Antares Six*. We'll stay and look for survivors. You go ahead after the others.

HAN: Stand by, *Antares Six*. (turns off intercom) Just great. Luke crashes a captured Star Destroyer, and we just lost a good Frigate crew.... I knew this trip was a bad idea.

LEIA: Han....

HAN: What we *really* ought to do is take the *Falcon* out towards the Galactic Core and investigate those rumors of superweapons coming out of the Imperial sector.

LEIA: They sent Admiral Ackbar to do that, Han. Besides, those are just rumors. Luke and Lando are in real trouble.

HAN: They don't need us! If I know those guys, right about now they've got the Imperials doing the Gamorrean two-step!

LEIA: Han, we lost their signal! The distress beacon broke contact at zero altitude!!

CHEWBACCA: ROARS.

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HAN: Yeah, Chewie, you're right. You're both right. I'm sorry I shot off my big mouth. (activates intercom) Solo to *Antares Six*. Establish a docking orbit and prepare to search for survivors.... we're going planetside.

CAPTAIN SNUNB: (V.O. over comm.) Copy that, General Solo. We'll keep you on our tracking screens. Good luck looking for Commander Skywalker.

HAN: Yeah, wherever he is.

Sound: The Falcon roars towards Coruscant.

SCENE 1-2 INT. EMPEROR'S PALACE –
CORUSCANT -- DAY

Sound: Crunching rock and effort as Luke frees a doorway in the Imperial Palace.

LUKE: There. It's open.

ARTOO: WHISTLES A BRIEF QUERY.

LUKE: Yes Artoo, just as I thought. Some sort of secret passageway, leading down from the Imperial Palace.

Sound: Luke begins to walk (and Artoo to roll).

LUKE: In all the years the Rebels occupied Coruscant, I can't believe we never found this chamber.

ARTOO: BEEPS OUT "WHEN?".

LUKE: Probably during the civil war. A laser blast or concussion cannon--probably destroyed this whole panel. It's dark...so dark...

ARTOO: SUGGESTS USING HIS LIGHTS.

DARK EMPIRE TRILOGY

LUKE: No thanks, Artoo. But it's not that kind of darkness. There's something...something *powerful* here. Something dangerous, too. Artoo, lock that door into position. Whatever was down here was well hidden and well shielded. That's why I told Lando not to follow us.

ARTOO: PROTESTS.

LUKE: I know you don't detect any lifeforms. These are the ruins...of the Emperor's Palace. It's been pretty much deserted since we evacuated during the civil war. (shivers)
No, these are more like dangerous memories. Memories of...

Sound: A door opens automatically.

LUKE: ...my father.

ARTOO: BLEEPS IN SURPRISE.

LUKE: Yes, Artoo. Anakin Skywalker. But if he ever lived here, he did so as Darth Vader. This whole place is...it resonates with the power of the Dark Side. Stay here, Artoo. See if you can power up that tech station. And get us some light! I've *got* to have a look around.

Sound: Artoo rolls off as Luke begins to walk around the chamber.

LUKE: (more to himself than Artoo) I can still feel the Dark Side here. Like a cold hand--its focus is very powerful. I wish I knew *why* my father turned to the Dark Side. What did he find there....?

ARTOO: WHISTLES A YODELING SUMMONS.

Sound: A holoprojector comes on.

LUKE: Artoo, I wanted a light, not some old hologram!

ARTOO: MOANS.

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LUKE: Wait--leave it on!!! That's an image of the Emperor~!
What's he saying? C-can you boost the power?

ARTOO: BEEPS IN ACKNOWLEDGEMENT.

EMPEROR: My attempts to create my own version of the device called "the Jedi Holocron" have failed. I have resorted to this crude device to record my discoveries of the Dark Side.

LUKE: It *is* the Emperor!

ARTOO: BLATTS IN DISGUST.

LUKE: (strangely insistent) NO, Artoo, leave it on! (voice trailing off) I...*want*....to listen.....

Sound: A low humming echoes through the next line, as if the Dark Side itself was audible.

EMPEROR: *The Book of Anger*, Chapter One.....

SCENE 1-3 INT. MILLENNIUM FALCON COCKPIT

Sound: The Falcon blasts through Coruscant's atmosphere.

CHEWBACCA: WHINES.

HAN: Okay, Chewie. Buckle up, everyone--we've hit a mild magnetic storm in the upper atmosphere.

LEIA: Han, I love you, but this ship is *still* a pile of junk!

HAN: Yeah, well this "pile of junk" just saved us from becoming one more piece of space garbage.

LEIA: Maybe, but I'm getting pretty shaken up by this magnetic storm.

DARK EMPIRE TRILOGY

HAN: That's because you prefer *my* kind of magnetism.

LEIA: Oh, Han...

THREEPIO: Oh, sir, there seem to be--

HAN: I see 'em, I see 'em!

LEIA: What is it?

HAN: Imperial TIE Fighters, going our way.

Sound: Proximity alarm goes off from the cockpit console. The roar of passing TIE Fighters.

HAN: Deflector shields up, Chewie!

CHEWBACCA: AGREES, AND THEN MUTTERS IN CONFUSION.

HAN: Yeah...didn't even stop to say hello.

LEIA: They must be joining forces with one of the Imperial factions fighting for the throne. They're heading straight for the ruins of the Imperial City.

HAN: Where the Emperor himself used to hang his hat, back when he was alive. Not much left of that place now.

LEIA: Not since the civil war started. Coruscant was a beautiful place when the Rebels controlled this system.

HAN: Yeah, 'till we got driven off-planet by those Imperials.

LEIA: Coruscant used to be the political center of the galaxy. Now it's only a barren battleground, fought over by remaining members of the Emperor's Ruling Council.

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THREEPIO: Thank goodness we've seen the last of the Empire. That's all I have to say.

HAN: Yeah, that's what *we* thought when Luke and his father defeated the Emperor. Then Admiral Thrawn unleashed his forces and almost wiped us out.

CHEWBACCA: TEASES HAN.

LEIA: Chewie's right, Han. You are a pessimist.

HAN: Hey, I'm not complaining. All this infighting among the Imperials has given the Rebel Alliance a chance to get organized. Not to mention giving you and me time for a honeymoon.

LEIA: (LAUGHS)

HAN: I just feel like we've been in this situation before. We think we've got the Empire on the ropes, but who knows what enemy is waiting in the wings?

SCENE 1-4 INT. EMPEROR'S PALACE

Sound: Same as in 1-2. A low humming as the hologram of the Emperor speaks.

EMPEROR: And I have come to realize that the Dark Side is my only ally. The Dark Side is the only means to power.

ARTOO: BEEPS UNEASILY.

LUKE: Be quiet, Artoo, I-I don't care about the time. But could you do something about the heat? I suddenly feel.... cold.....

ARTOO: TRIES TO COMPLY.

DARK EMPIRE TRILOGY

EMPEROR: My explorations of the Dark Side of the Force have revealed to me many wonderful secrets.

LUKE: (growing weak) Cold...like a dead hand pressing against my heart...

EMPEROR: I have learned that anger and will, when joined together, forge a most unholy and devastating alliance.

LUKE: Maybe Artoo's right...time to leave...but it's like a great weight, pressing down on me...I.... can't move...can't...leave...

EMPEROR: Using anger, I have learned to unlock the hidden reservoirs of the glorious Dark Side power.

LUKE: *No.....*

EMPEROR: Anger, concentrated by will, in the vital center of the body, creates a portal through which vast energies are released--the energies of the Dark Side of the Force. This is the power I command now that I am one with the Dark Side.

LUKE: Is this.... what my father felt?

EMPEROR: With these energies, I have slain my enemies from across the empty reaches of space.

LUKE: I shouldn't...listen....

EMPEROR: I have created lightning, and unleashed devastating fires.

LUKE: ...but I can't...stop...

EMPEROR: With this knowledge, I can unleash the Dark Side energies around us, even to shatter the fabric of space itself! In this way, I have created *storms...*

Sound: New and louder humming as Luke calls upon the Force.

TOM VEITCH & JOHN WHITMAN

LUKE: Got--to--break---FREE!!!

Sound: Luke crashes against the floor. The holoprojector suddenly cuts out.

ARTOO: BEEPS IN ALARM.

LUKE: I'm all right, Artoo. This place is *strong* with the Dark Side. And the presence of the Emperor...even in a hologram.... is almost overpowering. I've got to resist the temptation to study these tapes. Still...I wonder what he meant about "storms"...

SCENE 1-5 INT. MILLENNIUM FALCON COCKPIT

HAN: Okay, we're coming up on the ruins of the Imperial City.

LEIA: According to Luke's last coordinates, you're right on target.

HAN: That's the idea, sweetheart. Whoo...we're three miles above the surface, and I can still see smoke rising from the city.... if there's anything left of that place. I'd say ol' Luke put that big Star Destroyer right down on top of it.

THREEPIO: Poor Artoo-Detoo is with them! If anything's happened to him, I'll never forgive myself.

SCENE 1-6 EXT. CORUSCANT BATTLEFIELD/
INT. AT-AT WALKER

Sound: A falling shell hits the ground, shaking it. The sky is filled with screams, blaster fire, and louder cannon fire. Comlink is activated.

DARK EMPIRE TRILOGY

AT-AT CONTROLLER: Imperial Walker Unit One, this is Unit Six.

AT-AT CONTROLLER TWO: (V.O. over comm.) Unit One here, over.

AT-AT CONTROLLER: We've got a whole platoon of mutinous Imperial troops marching in at 060. We're taking heavy fire. Looks like they're going on the offensive.

AT-AT CONTROLLER TWO: (V.O. over comm.) Copy that, Unit Six. Stay on target. We've got a squadron of TIE Fighters dropping out of orbit. They'll blast those mutineers into Rancor food! Our AT-AT's have been ordered to track down the Rebel intruders, so keep your scanners focused on the ruins where that Star Destroyer crashed.

AT-AT CONTROLLER: We're never going to find those Rebels in all this wreckage....

Sound: Two cannon shots, and an explosion.

AT-AT CONTROLLER TWO: I think they just found us!

Sound: Comlink goes off.

SCENE 1-7 EXT. CORUSCANT BATTLEFIELD

Sound: Two blaster shots.

WEDGE: Good shot, Lando!

LANDO: Thanks, Wedge. But I don't think our field weapons are doing much good against those huge Imperial walkers. Status report?

WEDGE: We've got 15 wounded, and most of our blasters need time to re-energize.

TOM VEITCH & JOHN WHITMAN

LANDO: Maybe if we explained that to the Imperials, they'd break for lunch. GET DOWN!!

Sound: Cannon fire, close by.

LANDO: You okay, Wedge?

WEDGE: Yeah, thanks. You saved my--

LANDO: Never mind! Just keep your head down and return fire!

WEDGE: We *can't* hold out much longer against that!

Sound: A ship roars overhead, and opens up on the AT-AT.

LANDO: That's the *Millennium Falcon*!!

HAN: (over comlink) YEEHAH!! Too late for us to get in on the fun?

LANDO: Han Solo, you ol' space pirate! What are *you* doing here?

HAN: What I always do, Lando--

SCENE 1-8 INT. MILLENNIUM FALCON COCKPIT

HAN: --saving your butt! Again!

LEIA: Look at all the carnage down there! Blasted TIE Fighters, twisted hulks of armored transports--the wreckage goes on for miles, and they're still fighting! I wish all these Imperials would just wipe each other out! It would save us a lot of trouble.

HAN: No such luck, Princess. We've still got that Imperial walker to deal with.

DARK EMPIRE TRILOGY

Sound: Han sets some controls and gets up.

HAN: Take the helm, Chewie. Leia, get to the upper gun turret. I'll take the belly gun. All right, Chewie--take us in. You're about to watch the greatest husband and wife gunner team in the galaxy!

SCENE 1-9 INT. MILLENNIUM FALCON GUN
TURRETS

HAN: (over headset throughout scene) You all set up there, Leia?

LEIA: Let's see.... tracking systems on...

Sound: The gun activates. The tracking screen beeps into activation.

LEIA: ...blaster cannons charged.... ready!! At least, I hope so...this is only the second time I've ever had to use one of these things....

Sound: A low humming, as the Force begins to build within Leia.

LEIA: (whispering to herself) Okay, Leia. Try to remember what Luke taught you. Let your mind merge with the Force. Feel the living energy that binds the galaxy together....

SCENE 1-10 INT. AT-AT WALKER

AT-AT CONTROLLER: New target acquired. One ship, bearing 06.

AT-AT CONTROLLER TWO: (over comlink) It's a piece of junk! Must be a scavenger ship! These Imperial walkers we're using will pulverize them!

AT-AT CONTROLLER: Affirmative, Walker One. Move off, I'll handle this!

TOM VEITCH & JOHN WHITMAN

Sound: Comlink is deactivated.

SCENE 1-11 INT. MILLENNIUM FALCON GUN
TURRETS

HAN: (over headset) Okay, Leia, my scanner shows our target at 104, moving into my range. Bring her in, Chewie. Watch me turn that metal monster into a pile of--

LEIA: (to herself) Luke is right. I *can* feel the Force moving through me. Guiding my hands....

Sound: Cannon fire.

HAN: Blaster's firing... Damn, my shots bounce off his deflector shields! Chewie, give me a---

LEIA: CHEWIE!!! Swing around to 12.3!

CHEWBACCA: YELPS IN SURPRISE.

Sound: Falcon swings around.

LEIA: Good! Hold her steady...steady...NOW!!

Sound: Cannon fire--and an explosion, followed by a crashing sound.

HAN: Good shot, Leia! That's thing's gonna---

Sound: Massive explosion.

SCENE 1-12 EXT. BATTLEFIELD

BRICK: Hey, Slag. Another ship is landing. Get those battle droids ready.

SLAG: I dunno, Brick. They just took out an Imperial walker...we're only a couplea junk traders and scavengers. What if they're too tough for us?

DARK EMPIRE TRILOGY

BRICK: Aw, you must be part Jawa. We have these hot-wired weapons droids running interference, don't we? Get some backbone, will ya? Would ya rather leave this exciting life we got, gallivanting around the Empire--

SLAG: Gallivanting?

BRICK: --growing rich off the spoils of war --

SLAG: *Rich?* I dunno about rich--

BRICK: -- and dying a glorious death!

SLAG: D-d-d-death?

BRICK: Or would you rather waste your life on some backwater planet getting old'n'fat?

SLAG: Now that you mention it, uh, that sounds pretty good.

BRICK: I thought so. Now *get goin'*! Reattach that blaster armor on this attack droid while I activate his program.

Sound: The two scavengers work on the droid.

BRICK: There.

DROID: Droid activated. Systems on.

BRICK: Walk over there with the other droids and await further orders. Come on, Slag, let's go.

SLAG: I-I just don't know, Brick.

BRICK: Aw, relax! Even if these old battle droids don't do the trick.... I gotta 'nother surprise up my sleeve...

TOM VEITCH & JOHN WHITMAN

SCENE 1-13 EXT. CORUSCANT BATTLEFIELD

Sound: The Falcon lands, and its boarding ramp lowers.

HAN: Hey, Lando!

LANDO: Han, you grundly spork-chaser, it's good to see you! Well, what took you so long? Another honeymoon? We've been holed up here for days!

THREEPIO: Oh, Artoo, it's so good to see you in one piece!

ARTOO: GREET'S THREEPIO.

LEIA: Lando, where's Luke?

LANDO: He took off with Artoo right after we crashed. He said something about "the dark side of the Force still being very powerful in this place."

LEIA: You mean.... he's been gone for *six days?!?*

LANDO: Yeah--but if Artoo's back, Luke must be nearby. Right now, I'm more concerned about the renegades and the scavengers that are crawling all over the ruins. Every junk-trader in the galaxy has been drawn to this place like flies to the feast. This bunch is using hot-wired weapons droids! They've created their own little army!!!

HAN: And it looks like they're heading this way! Take cover!!

Sound: More blaster fire, and the clomping sound of droid feet.

DROID: Targets acquired. Begin rapid-fire.

Sound: A machine-gun like blaster opens up, followed by others.

DARK EMPIRE TRILOGY

LANDO: Return fire! Watch out for those war droids!

Sound: Regular blaster fire joins the fray.

BRICK: Ha! Come on, Slag, let's go check out that ship!

SLAG: Heyyyy, look at the tech on this baby! Modified power couplings, first-class flux stabilizers...

BRICK: Hey.... you know what this ship *is*?! This is the *Millennium Falcon*!

SLAG: The *Falcon*? The most notorious ship in the galaxy!! Oh ho, man, I'm gonna love strippin' this starship!

Sound: Brick and Slag start attacking the Falcon with tools.

LEIA: Oh no--those scavengers are between us and the *Millennium Falcon*!

HAN: Hey, they're trying to steal my ship!

CHEWBACCA: HOWLS WITH OUTRAGE.

LEIA: Han, wait--!

Sound: More blaster fire, bouncing off the Falcon's hull.

HAN: *Get away from my ship, scum!!!* Come on, Chewie!!

LEIA: Don't be crazy!

SLAG: See Brick, it ain't workin'! Here they come!

BRICK: I got things under control. Uh, let's see.... Activate dis, uh, remote that opens the cargo door on my transport ship, and....

Sound: Cargo door opens. A group of large animal noises, like pit bulls on steroids.

TOM VEITCH & JOHN WHITMAN

LANDO: *Watch it, Han!!! They're releasing a pack of Neks!!!!*

HAN: (grunts as he dives back behind cover) Neks? What are Neks?

LEIA: Cyborrean battle dogs, armored and fitted with attack stimulators. They kill on sight.

HAN: Yeah, and they're ugly too. We'd better get out of here.

LEIA: Wait. I think I can handle them. Luke taught me how to use the Force to sow confusion in the minds of others. It's faster than a blaster, and a lot less messy.

HAN: I don't know, sweetheart, I think I'd prefer a blaster. That way I know they're not gonna gnaw off my leg when my back is turned. Besides, I'm not even sure these things *have* minds.

Sound: A humming, rising in volume and pitch.

LEIA: Just got to concentrate...concentrate...

Sound: The dogs suddenly start yelping, running off into the distance.

HAN: Huh. The dogs are turning tail. Leia, I apologize, I didn't know you could--

LEIA: It wasn't me, Han--

LUKE: It was me.

HAN: Luke!

LEIA: Oh, Luke! (hugs him) You're all right! Where *were* you?

DARK EMPIRE TRILOGY

LUKE: In a minute, Leia. First, let me take care of these battle droids.

DROID: Anomaly. Anomaly. This unit experiencing unexplained--

Sound: Explosions, all across the battlefield.

HAN: Wha--he just waved his hand and all those battle droids exploded!

LUKE: Simple. I just used the Force to displace the master servo control in each droid. They destroyed themselves.

LEIA: Luke, behind you! It's another Imperial Walker! It's about to--

Sound: Cannon fire--which 'spangs' as it bounces off Luke! Luke waves his lightsaber, deflecting the rest. One deflected shot goes right back at the Walker, blowing off its 'head' weapons. Luke turns off his 'saber.

HAN: I don't believe it, he used his lightsaber to deflect the blaster fire right back at that thing!

LANDO: But it's still standing!

LUKE: (supremely confident) Not for long, Lando.

LANDO: Don't tell me you can use the Force against something *that* big!

LUKE: Of course. "Size matters not." The only difference is in your mind. Watch...

Sound: The humming begins again, stronger than with Leia...

LANDO: What's he doing now?

Sound: Creaking and shaking of gears and metal plates....

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SCENE 1-14 INT. AT-AT WALKER

AT-AT CONTROLLER TWO: He's still standing!

GUNNER: How could we have missed him?

AT-AT CONTROLLER TWO: We didn't miss him! He deflected our shots with that saber thing!

GUNNER: What's he doing? *What's he doing??*

AT-AT CONTROLLER TWO: He's just standing there!!

GUNNER: He's doing *something*. My power grid's gone haywire! My turboblasters are on overload!

AT-AT CONTROLLER TWO: Dump the power from the engines! HURRY BEFORE---

Sound: Massive explosion and screams. Huge crashing sound.

SCENE 1-15 EXT. CORUSCANT BATTLEFIELD

Sound: Cheers from the Rebel fighters.

HAN: Good job, kid!

LEIA: Oh, Luke, I'm so glad you're all right!

ARTOO: BEEPS OUT A LITTLE LINE.

THREEPIO: Yes Artoo, this is quite an emotional moment! My protocol empathy module is starting to overheat!

LEIA: Come on, get those wounded aboard the *Falcon*!

REBEL: (over intercom) Evacuating planet in 15 minutes.

REBEL #2: Move it, let's go, let's go!

DARK EMPIRE TRILOGY

REBEL #3: Got to get those wounded out of here, get the equipment off!

LANDO: --so there we were, Han. Me, Luke, and the others, standing on the bridge of that Star Destroyer--

HAN: The one you just crashed, Lando.

LANDO: A ship with lightspeed engines that'll take you from here to Tatooine in a nanosecond. But it drops through the atmosphere like a stray meteor. I'm telling you, this face of mine should be smashed as flat as a Hutt in heavy gravity.

HAN: So what happened?

LANDO: It was Luke! He guided that ship down like it was an Ewok's hang glider. Used the deflector shields to cushion our fall.

HAN: That's great, but--

LANDO: --but...it was *more* than that! NO ONE should have been able to land that ship! But after seeing what he did to that Imperial Walker, well...he *must* have used the Force to help him. He's growing strong, Han. *Really* strong. I haven't seen anything like that since...since Vader...

SCENE 1-16 ANTARES SIX BRIDGE

REBEL: (over intercom) *Antares Six*, this is Medavac Shuttle One, we are entering the docking bay.

ANTARES SIX CREWMAN (A Sullustan in the comic): Affirmative, Shuttle One. (turns off comlink) Captain, that's the last of the shuttle crews. All the wounded from the planet's surface are accounted for.

TOM VEITCH & JOHN WHITMAN

CAPTAIN SNUNB: That's all of them? My dear, what a tragedy. Get the wounded to Sickbay immediately. And contact the *Millennium Falcon*. Tell them we've finished rescue operations and are about to depart. Keep a sharp eye out, helm. We don't want *Antares Six* to end up like *Rebel Star--*

ANTARES SIX CREWMAN: Captain!!! Look at this!!

SCENE 1-17 EXT. CORUSCANT BATTLEFIELD

HAN: You want to do *what*???

LUKE: I have to stay on this planet, Han!

LEIA: Luke, what's wrong??

LUKE: I found strange clues in the Palace. Leia, I *have* to stay here. But you and Han, Chewie, Lando--you should leave this place at once.

HAN: Are you kidding?! We traveled a million light-years to get you out of trouble, and you want to stay here?!?

LUKE: Han, you don't understand! There's a great disturbance in the Force. Someone--or *something*--is using the Dark Side with *unbelievable* power!!! I've felt it! SEEN it!!!

LEIA: But you know we can't leave you! I won't let you face whatever it is by yourself!

HAN: Whatever this thing is, we'll be right there beside you, kid, blasters blazing.

LUKE: (tightly) Han, this isn't just another gun battle. (distant) A vast evil is approaching. It knows I'm here. What will happen is unavoidable. It is my destiny. It is beginning.... now.

SCENE 1-18 INT. ANTARES SIX BRIDGE

DARK EMPIRE TRILOGY

Sound: A proximity alarm has gone off.

CAPTAIN SNUNB: What is it?

ANTARES SIX CREWMAN: Some kind of...wormhole...opening up in space. It's huge! Fifty times the size of our ship! Energy readings off the scale!

Sound: Comlink goes on.

CAPTAIN SNUNB: *Antares Six* calling the *Millennium Falcon*. Our scanners just picked up a gigantic hyperspace wormhole--an energy storm of undetermined magnitude is--

ANTARES SIX CREWMAN: It's no good, sir--there's too much interference. Your message isn't getting through.

Sound: A huge maelstrom of sound--lightning, hail, laser blasts, and more all joined in a cacophony of noise--is blasting straight at the Antares Six.

CAPTAIN SNUNB: Blast...

ANTARES SIX CREWMAN: It's heading right for us!!!

CAPTAIN SNUNB: EVASIVE ACTION! FULL RIGHT THRUSTERS!!!

ANTARES SIX CREWMAN: THEY'RE NOT RESPONDING, CAPTAIN!!! WE'VE LOST LATERAL GUIDANCE!!!

CAPTAIN SNUNB: FULL REVERSE!!!! BACK US AWAY!!!

ANTARES SIX CREWMAN: TOO LATE--!!!!

Sound: The sound of the energy storm is deafening, and growing closer...closer....

TOM VEITCH & JOHN WHITMAN

.... and fades off into the distance again.

ANTARES SIX CREWMAN: Wha--What happened?

CAPTAIN SNUNB: The energy storm.... swept right by us...ignored us like we weren't even here.

ANTARES SIX CREWMAN: Captain.... it's heading right for the surface of the planet! It's heading right for--

CAPTAIN SNUNB: --right for the ruins of the Imperial City. And our friends are in its path. May the Force be with them...

SCENE 1-19 EXT. CORUSCANT BATTLEFIELD

LUKE: Leia, *please!* You all must leave now!!!

HAN: Listen kid, all-powerful Force or no Force, we can't just leave you to--

Sound: The storm is now audible in the distance.

ARTOO: WHOOPS AND SQUEALS IN ALARM.

THREEPIO: Don't interrupt, Artoo!

ARTOO: SQUAWKS IN PANIC.

THREEPIO: What's that?

ARTOO: ELABORATES WITH SOME SPEED.

THREEPIO: An energy storm? Well, I don't hear anything.

Sound: The storm becomes VERY audible.

THREEPIO: OH MY!!!

DARK EMPIRE TRILOGY

LANDO: (hushed) Look at that sky.

THREEPIO: What is it?!?!

LEIA: The sky's on fire!

HAN: Must be that same magnetic storm we hit earlier--

LUKE: It's a storm--but not caused by anything natural. It's almost upon us. There's no need for you to die too!

LEIA: We can't leave you!!!

LUKE: It doesn't want you! It wants *me!* Leave, all of you, or you'll be destroyed!

LEIA: No, Luke!! We're brother and sister--

LUKE: We *are* brother and sister! But *my* destiny is not *yours!* You...your children.... are the future of the Jedi. Protect them!!! *LEAVE!!!!*

HAN: (reluctantly) Come on, Leia. We've got to get back to the ship.

LEIA: But Luke won't--

HAN: Luke can take care of himself. Even if he *is* crazy.

ARTOO: LETS OUT A DEFIANT WHISTLE.

THREEPIO: Artoo--? Oh NO! He thinks he belongs with Master Luke! Stop him, someone, please!

HAN: No time! Luke will have to save Artoo while he's busy saving himself. Get on board, Threepio!

Sound: The heroes bundle into the Falcon, and the ramp closes. Artoo's treads are heard coming up to Luke. The storm is closing, fast.

TOM VEITCH & JOHN WHITMAN

LUKE: Good. They've escaped. Oh, Leia...you don't understand the power I've achieved since our father died. But I still don't know why our father betrayed his friends.... and himself. I must find out what he learned.... what made him give in to the Dark Side. It's the Dark Side that's coming. My presence triggered such hatred that it rends the fabric of space.

Sound: The Falcon's engines ignite, and the ship blasts out of ground zero.

ARTOO: MOANS WITH WORRY.

LUKE: Yes, Artoo. I know they're leaving. They've made the right decision.

Sound: The storm is now deafening again.

LUKE: I only wonder...have I?

Sound: The storm drowns out all background noise, drowns out everything...except a lone man's scream.

SCENE 1-20 INT. MILLENNIUM FALCON COCKPIT

HAN: Believe me Leia, Luke knows what he's doing. I think.

LEIA: (quiet) I'm not so sure, Han. Something about the way he looked at me...I was afraid of him.

HAN: Lando, notify *Antares Six* we're returning to Pinnacle Base. Chewie, lock in the auxiliary power. Prepare to jump to lightspeed.

CHEWBACCA: AGREES WHOLEHEARTEDLY.

Sound: The Falcon roars into hyperspace.

SCENE 1-20 INT. DEFIANT BRIDGE

DARK EMPIRE TRILOGY

Sound: Comlink goes on.

GREEN THREE: (on comlink, nervous) This is Green Three to Green Leader. I show target ship exiting hyperspace beyond the third moon.

GREEN LEADER: (on comlink) Green Leader here. Pinnacle Base confirms our readings. The ship is broadcasting no I.D. codes. Assume intercept course.

GREEN THREE: (VERY nervous) Uh.... uh, auxiliary power engaged...

GREEN LEADER: Relax, kid, you sound nervous. This your first patrol mission?

GREEN THREE: Of-of-of.... yeah, it is.

GREEN LEADER: (laughs) Take it easy. It's only one ship. We've got the whole Rebel Alliance orbiting a nearby planet. And our own Star Destroyer to back us up. You got nothing to worry about. Just keep an eye on your scanner, intercept 05.

ACKBAR: This is Admiral Ackbar, aboard the flagship *Defiant*.

GREEN LEADER: Admiral Ackbar? From the planet Mon Calamari? If that's so, how come you aren't broadcasting on a recognition code?

ACKBAR: We ran into an Imperial convoy, and our transponder was damaged.

GREEN LEADER: I thought you were on a recon mission into the Galactic Core....

TOM VEITCH & JOHN WHITMAN

ACKBAR: Let's just say the Imperials didn't like the idea as much as we did. Patch me through to Mon Mothma, the Alliance leader, immediately.

GREEN LEADER: Affirmative.

Sound: The comlink changes frequencies, and a viewscreen comes on.

MON MOTHMA: Admiral Ackbar! Glad to see you in one piece!

ACKBAR: Glad to be in one piece, Mon Mothma, after what we've seen. We penetrated as far as we could into the star systems still controlled by the Empire. We got as far as the planet Byss. It was ringed with thousands of warships. Something of great consequence is happening there. We saw Imperial ships from both sides of the civil war vanishing into the farthest reaches of the Galactic Core.

MON MOTHMA: Our spies and probe droids report similar sightings in other sectors. Whole fleets of ships vanishing from our tracking screens. What can it mean?

ACKBAR: The civil war has left the Imperial system a wasteland. The populations are in desperate straits. Half of the galaxy is ripe for the pickings if one person gains control of the fleet. But just when one of these Starfleet commanders has a chance to seize power, he vanishes.

MON MOTHMA: Thank goodness for that.

ACKBAR: It could be a blessing for us. Or...well, I'm afraid of the alternative. It's beyond my ability to understand. How did the mission to the old Imperial homeworld go? Is there any news of Commander Skywalker?

MON MOTHMA: Yes, but not good, I'm afraid. We received a garbled transmission from the Imperial planet, but there was too much interference to understand it. We think

DARK EMPIRE TRILOGY

they found General Calrissian and Luke, but only Lando is returning with them. I don't know what to make of it.

ACKBAR: I think you'll get your answer soon, Mon Mothma. We've picked up the *Millennium Falcon*, exiting hyperspace. We're heading into Pinnacle Base.

SCENE 1-21 INT. MILLENNIUM FALCON
COCKPIT

BASE COMPUTER: (on comlink) Pinnacle Base. Current headquarters of the Rebel Alliance. Location: Fifth moon of the planet Da Sootcha. Topographical description: The atmosphere of the fifth moon sustains carbon-based life forms. 100% of the moon's surface is covered by jagged rock formations. Indigenous life forms: Sentient avians known as 'ixylls.' Alliance headquarters located in a series of caverns on the northern hemisphere. Weapons systems: This information is classified for trainees.

Sound: Comlink goes off.

HAN: I gotta fix this stupid transmitter. Every time I bring the *Millennium Falcon* back to base, my comlink picks up that damn trainee orientation!

LEIA: Relax, Han. We're mooring now.

Sound: The Falcon lands on the cavern floor.

BASE COMPUTER: (on comlink again) Tractor beam disengaging. Repulsorlift deactivated. You are clear to disembark. Welcome to Pinnacle Base.

Sound: Ramp lowers.

SCENE 1-22 EXT. DA SOOTCHA CAVERN

ACKBAR: Princess Leia! Thank goodness you're back!

TOM VEITCH & JOHN WHITMAN

LEIA: Admiral Ackbar.

ACKBAR: I've only just returned myself. Where's Commander Skywalker?

LEIA: A terrible thing has happened. The Dark Side has taken Luke prisoner. He let it happen!

THREEPIO: And poor Artoo is with him! They'll make hydrospanners out of him--if he survives!

ACKBAR: Hurry! You can give a full report immediately! Mon Mothma has just called an emergency meeting of the command staff!

SCENE 1-23 INT. CAVERN MEETING ROOM

MON MOTHMA: (grimly) The energy storm that took Commander Skywalker--this is NOT an isolated event. Similar storms have been detected in several systems. Furthermore, Admiral Ackbar's reconnaissance mission suggests that there is a vast war fleet gathering at the very core of the galaxy. Someone--or something--has been biding its time, while the feuding Imperial factions distracted our attention.

ACKBAR: We have reason to believe that some Dark Side genius is at work, creating new technologies that go beyond all previous conception.

MON MOTHMA: Activate holographic projector.

Sound: Holoprojector activates. What follows is the sounds of destruction--the humming of repulsorlifts, explosions, screams, blaster shots--but on a monstrous scale.

MON MOTHMA: The images you are seeing are being transmitted at this very moment from the water-covered

DARK EMPIRE TRILOGY

planet Mon Calamari-- the homeworld of Admiral Ackbar. The people of Calamari have been a proud part of the Alliance since the beginning. Now, Calamari seems to be under attack from some diabolical new machines. There, coming into view now....

Sound: Gasps from the people in the room.

LEIA: Oh my G--

CHEWBACCA: MOANS IN SHOCK.

HAN: What is THAT thing?!?

MON MOTHMA: The Calamari call them “World Devastators.” There are dozens of them gathering near many of the worlds sympathetic to the Rebellion.

LEIA: It’s--it’s larger than one of the Empire’s Star Destroyers.

ACKBAR: And more lethal than the Death Star.

HAN: Doesn’t look all that threatening to me--I mean, I only see a few escorts of TIE Fighters, no heavy weapons-- just these huge rectangular black ships hovering over the planet’s surface.

ACKBAR: The World Devastators only need one weapon, General Solo. You see the large square opening at the front of the Devastator?

HAN: Sure. And another on the bottom. Looks like some kind of tractor bay.

MON MOTHMA: These World Devastators are giant factories. They consume everything in their path, and in the belly of each machine, great furnaces process the collected matter into raw elements, and then into--

TOM VEITCH & JOHN WHITMAN

LEIA: --into even more weapons of destruction. Han, the World Devastators are like twisted versions of living things--every time they destroy something, they get even stronger.

ACKBAR: Reports from Calamari indicate my people are unable to stop the World Devastators. They are impervious to all modes of attack.

HAN: What about ion cannons, Admiral?

ACKBAR: Ineffective.

HAN: Ground assault?

ACKBAR: Suicidal.

HAN: *Nothing* works???

SCENE 1-24 EXT. MON CALAMARI BATTLEFIELD

Sound: The noises of battle are even louder. A comlink is activated.

CAPTAIN GAMMACK: Nothing! I repeat, torpedoes have done nothing to halt the enemy advance!

CALAMARIAN TWO: (over intercom) C fire 4! C fire 4!! Pull up, pull up!!

Sound: Crash and explosion.

CALAMARIAN THREE: (over intercom) I'm hit, I'm hit!!!

Sound: Another explosion.

CALAMARIAN TWO: C fire team, C fire team, take out the tower!

CAPTAIN GAMMACK: Evac shuttles! Get those evac shuttles to the front line! *We're being slaughtered!!!*

DARK EMPIRE TRILOGY

REBEL PILOT: (over intercom) Pull back! Pull back! All squads, regroup in a (garbled) formation!

CAPTAIN GAMMACK: But that's three degrees north of here! We can't just give up that much ground!

REBEL PILOT: Who is that?!

CAPTAIN GAMMACK: Uh, this is Captain Gammack, third battalion.

REBEL PILOT: Well, Captain, there are three World Devastators heading north, a few miles from the equator, and two more heading west. Looks like they're forming a wedge to sweep us out of the whole hemisphere! Just one of these monsters has taken out a whole division of our troops! How can we face the whole fleet???

CAPTAIN GAMMACK: We must send a transmission to the Rebel base.

REBEL PILOT: Then send it and fall back! We'll cover you as long as we can!

Sound: Transmitter is activated.

CAPTAIN GAMMACK: I hope my transmitter is strong enough to reach offplanet. Rebel Alliance, this is a transmission from the planet Calamari. We are under assault from massive World Devastators...

SCENE 1-25 INT. CAVERN MEETING ROOM

CAPTAIN GAMMACK: (over intercom) I repeat, massive World Devastators--HERE THEY COME!!! LOOK OUT--

Sound: Ominous static.

TOM VEITCH & JOHN WHITMAN

MON MOTHMA: That's all the transmission that got through.

LEIA: It's a massacre down there.

ACKBAR: (pause, then tightly) The people of Calamari were the first to defy the Empire, years ago. When the Death Star was created, we were scheduled to be one of the first planets annihilated by that terrible weapon. When the Emperor was killed, we thought we'd been spared, but now...whoever is reunifying the Empire is carrying out the Emperor's decision to 'discipline' us.

LEIA: Don't give up, Admiral Ackbar. If there's one thing I've learned from Luke, it's the power of hope. And the power of strong will. We'll save your planet.

SCENE 1-26 EXT. DA SOOTCHA CAVERN

Sound: Starfighters warming up.

MON MOTHMA: Green and Blue Squadrons will leave at once in their X-Wing Fighters to escort and defend the evacuation of Calamari. General Calrissian, are you prepared to pilot our remaining captured Star Destroyer against these World Devastators?

LANDO: I don't know. After what I did to the last Star Destroyer, I'm not sure I'm qualified to pilot anything fancier than a garbage scow. How about you, Han? (grudgingly) You're the best star pilot in the galaxy.

HAN: Ah, sorry, uh.... You'll have to wing it, Lando. I've got my hands full wet-nursing all these new fighter pilots that have joined the Rebellion. But, uh.... good luck.

SCENE 1-27 INT. HAN AND LEIA'S QUARTERS

DARK EMPIRE TRILOGY

Sound: The hum of a holoprojector. A faint lullaby tickles at the air.

LEIA: Hello, little Jacen.... oh, and there's my beautiful Jaina. Oh, I miss you so much...

Sound: Door opens.

HAN: Hey, Leia, I--oh, there you are. Looking at those holograms of our kids again.

LEIA: (sigh) I can't help it, Han. They're so far away...

HAN: Leia...you know it's better this way. As long as they're hidden away on New Alderaan, they're safe from the Empire.

LEIA: But sometimes I want to reach out and hold them so much I--

Sound: The hologram is disrupted.

HAN: Don't! You're breaking up the projection.

LEIA: (giggles) You like looking at their pictures as much as I do.

HAN: Yeah, I guess so.

LEIA: Look, Han. She has your hair. And he has your eyes.

HAN: Yeah.... and if they're lucky, they'll both have your smarts. With my looks and your brains, they'll be the stars of the Galaxy.

LEIA: The next generation of Jedi Knights.

HAN: They're gonna be the leaders of hundreds of worlds, and here I am, their old dad the smuggler, tickling them under the chin like a doting old moisture farmer. (chuckles)

LEIA: What?

TOM VEITCH & JOHN WHITMAN

HAN: Oh, me. This life. I got a beautiful wife, a nice soft bed, pictures on the walls.... yep, just what I always wanted.

Sound: Holoprojector is turned off. The lullaby fades.

LEIA: Han...it's not like you to turn down an assignment like you did today.

HAN: Leia, this endless war...it's like we've been alone for only five minutes since we got married.

LEIA: But?

HAN: I really wanted to go with Lando. But I accepted this other assignment so we'd have a chance to be together.

LEIA: Han...something terrible is happening to Luke.

HAN: Oh jeez, Leia...for once in my life, I'm trying to be sensitive and romantic, and see where it gets me? Luke can take care of himself!

LEIA: I can feel him, Han. He's getting farther and farther away.... we *must* help him.

HAN: We need some time to ourselves, Leia. For you and me. Luke doesn't want any help. He says he has to do it alone, and I believe him.

LEIA: Han...

HAN: I mean, who am I to challenge the judgment of a Jedi? Besides.... (slyly) You've got enough to worry about right here...

LEIA: (giggles again) Do I?

DARK EMPIRE TRILOGY

HAN: Uh huh. After all, beautiful princess here alone with a notorious scoundrel...(both giggle).... who knows what could happen...

Sound: Fade out on kissing sounds.

SCENE 1-28 INT. PRISON SHIP/ EXT. SPACEPORT

Sound: Ship's engines.

LUKE: Uhh...whatever grabbed me, it was no energy storm...and it's left me somewhere dark. And cold.

ARTOO: BEEPS A WORRIED GREETING.

LUKE: Artoo, is that you?

ARTOO: REPLIES IN THE AFFIRMATIVE.

LUKE: I don't know where we are. Some sort of ship. Whoever...whatever captures us has kept us in the dark. But I don't need light to see...

Sound: The Force rises in Luke.

LUKE: And I don't care how thick these walls are...they're nothing compared to the power of the Force...we're inside an Imperial dungeon ship. The kind they used to transport Jedi Knights during the Clone Wars.

Sound: Rattling.

LUKE: And it looks like we've reached our destination.

ARTOO: BLEEPS IN SURPRISE.

LUKE: A planet...somewhere in the core of the galaxy. Surrounded by THOUSANDS of warships...Gigantic--ahh!!!

TOM VEITCH & JOHN WHITMAN

It's entirely enveloped in the Dark Side of the Force...if there is a dark center to the universe, Artoo, this is it.

ARTOO: MOANS.

Sound: Door opens.

DARK GUARD: (echoing) We are ready to receive the prisoner.

Sound: Footsteps on metal.

DARK GUARD TWO: (amplified and echoing) JEDI KNIGHT, WELCOME. PLEASE...COME WITH US.

LUKE: I'm not going anywhere until--

DARK GUARD: Activate Dark Force cage.

Sound: An electrical field is engaged, and Luke and Artoo yell and grunt as they are forcibly yanked inside.

DARK GUARD: Dark Force cage energized. Prisoner contained. Inform His Excellency that his...guest has arrived undamaged. Take him to the Great Hall.

SCENE 1-29 EXT. PALACE ENTRANCE

Sound: Humming of Dark Force cage as it moves. Footsteps on metal again.

LUKE: Artoo, are you functioning?

ARTOO: Bleeps out "BARELY."

LUKE: I'm glad one of us is. I...I don't understand...(echoing throughout the scene) my mind...these whispers in my head...can't.... seem to...concentrate...

DARK EMPIRE TRILOGY

DARK GUARD: This cage is designed to hold Jedi. It disturbs the power of the Force. Neither your mind control abilities, nor your control of physical objects will work while you're in the cage.

LUKE: Ungghhh...then I guess I'll have to resort to some old-fashioned questioning. What planet are we on?

DARK GUARD: You are on the planet Byss, at the very center of the Galaxy.

LUKE: What's that.... whispering I hear?

DARK GUARD: Whispering?

LUKE: Yes.... those voices.... so sinister...

DARK GUARD: I hear nothing.

LUKE: Who are you?

DARK GUARD: I serve his Excellency.

LUKE: Who's that? Some two-bit Imperial governor with delusions of grandeur?

DARK GUARD: You are foolish to mock your new master. As you'll soon see.

Sound: Footsteps stop.

DARK GUARD: We have arrived at the Palace.

Sound: The Palace gates open.

IMPERIAL SENTINEL: Release the prisoner. We will take him from here.

LUKE: Who are these big ugly guys in the armor? They look familiar.

TOM VEITCH & JOHN WHITMAN

DARK GUARD: These are Imperial Sentinels. The elite warriors of the Empire. Deactivating Dark Force cage.

Sound: The field fades, and the cage door is opened.

LUKE: (sighs with relief)

IMPERIAL SENTINEL: Prisoner. Out.

LUKE: This is it, Artoo.

ARTOO: SAYS “THIS IS WHAT?”

LUKE: This is where my opponent--whoever he is--is waiting.

IMPERIAL SENTINEL: I said...OUT!!!!

LUKE: Don't threaten me!! I'm here because I *choose* to be here!!

Sound: The Force rises.

IMPERIAL SENTINEL: (gasps in pain, hits ground)

IMPERIAL SENTINEL TWO: (does the same)

LUKE: That should teach you to offend a Jedi Master. Now to face your leader.

ARTOO: BEEPS AN ELECTRONIC RASPBERRY AT THE SENTINELS AS HE DEPARTS.

Sound: Footsteps fading into the distance, as well as Artoo's treads.

IMPERIAL SENTINEL: Impudent whelp!! I will--

DARK GUARD: --do nothing. Let him believe it is his free choice if he wants. But he is walking to his doom.

DARK EMPIRE TRILOGY

SCENE 1-30 INT. THRONE ROOM

Sound: Footsteps and treads.

LUKE: This Palace is like a maze. But the Force is leading me. Here.

Sound: Steps and treads stop.

LUKE: But this looks like...a throne room!

A FAMILIAR, OLD, CRACKLY VOICE: Yes...MY throne room!

LUKE: YOU!?!?! *THE EMPEROR!!!!*

EMPEROR PALPATINE: *Yes.*

LUKE: But you're---

EMPEROR: Dead? Young Skywalker...You of all people should know the power of the Dark Side. And you **WILL** know...oh, yes...for *you* are destined to rule the Empire by my side!! **FOREVER!!!!**

Music: The chilling Imperial March, then fade to silence.

TAPE ONE/ SIDE TWO

SCENE 2-1 INT. THRONE ROOM

Music: A short, chilly piece (from TESB), then fade.

EMPEROR: Well, young Skywalker. I am pleased that you have come to me once again.

TOM VEITCH & JOHN WHITMAN

LUKE: (disbelieving) The Emperor...alive...somehow, I knew. But I *saw* you die...

EMPEROR: Yes, you knew, didn't you? You.... *sensed* it. You are in touch with the Dark Side already. You've grown very strong in the Force since last we met. But then, so have I. Guards, you may leave us.

Sound: Twin sets of footsteps, fading off.

LUKE: How did you survive?

EMPEROR: Survive your foolishness over the moon of Endor? Survive the base treachery of your poor, weak father? (cackles) That was not the first time I "died." Nor will it be the last. Such are the mysteries of the Dark Side of the Force. Mysteries *you* will soon learn well. You see, my young apprentice, flesh does not easily support this great power. After all, I live primarily as energy, formless and powerful. For many years, I have been under a dire necessity. My body has decayed again and again. And each time, I have needed to take another, transferring my essence into a humble clone of the man I once was.

LUKE: Clones?

EMPEROR: Yes, young Skywalker. The dying is painful--the transition is terrible to endure. But the suffering is a small price to pay for eternal life. (pause) Well, my young apprentice, your father is dead. Have you come to join me? Will you take the place that rightfully belongs to you?

LUKE: (grunting with effort) I...can't...think...

EMPEROR: You hesitate. Let me offer you an incentive. Screen on.

Sound: Viewscreen comes on, and we hear the sounds of destruction again.

DARK EMPIRE TRILOGY

EMPEROR: Behold the battle raging across the planet Calamari. Those pathetic Rebels flee before the might of my World Devastators. You have only to kneel before me, and they are yours to command.

LUKE: No.....

EMPEROR: The Rebels *had* their chance! They had years to reclaim the galaxy, while my discorporate mind drifted across the empty reaches of space, to return to this cloning chamber. I spent five years in hiding, while your friends tried to fulfill their dream. But without the Jedi Knights, they failed miserably. And now, I have outflanked them! Working in secret, I have created weapons such as the galaxy has never seen! These World Devastators are utterly invincible. They are invulnerable to attack. Even if every member of the crew were destroyed, the ships themselves would continue in their destructive purpose, directed by a special master control program which I maintain.

Sound: Artoo pops open his top, and pulls out Luke's lightsaber on an arm.

ARTOO: URGES LUKE TO TAKE THE LIGHTSABER.

LUKE: (sounding lethargic) What's that...Artoo? Oh...my lightsaber.

EMPEROR: It is your destiny, my friend. To succeed your father. To wield my discipline over the worlds that have betrayed me.

Sound: Luke's lightsaber ignites!!!

LUKE: NEVER!!!

EMPEROR: Once again you stand before me, lightsaber in hand. And once again, you hesitate. I *know*. I know too well, my young friend. My promise of power does not entice you?

TOM VEITCH & JOHN WHITMAN

And a stroke of your lightsaber might help the cause of billions--but will it mean the end of the Dark Side?

LUKE: (straining) Strike...everything that I am cries out for me to strike...

EMPEROR: Is it so difficult to decide, my son? Surely you know that if you strike me down in anger, I will live again! Perhaps I will even live--as *you*!!

LUKE: NNOOOO!!!!

Sound: The lightsaber hums and cracks as it strikes--something...

EMPEROR: (laughs) You strike the throne, but not the man! You miss by *inches*! But you miss on purpose! I see you have grown wise in the ways of the Force. You have achieved control; you are no longer the impulsive youth at war with your own anger. Excellent...

LUKE: I...will not...kill you...

EMPEROR: But you *can* still conquer me. By learning the secrets of the Dark Side. We both know there is no other way for you.

Sound: The Emperor's voice echoes at "you," and continues to reverberate in Luke's mind, along with other whispers.

LUKE: (echoing himself) The secrets of the Dark Side...those *whispers*...that's the Dark Side. The seduction of its' *power*... but maybe for once...it speaks the *truth*...Maybe I must challenge the Dark Side...from *within*.....

EMPEROR: Your decision, young Skywalker! NOW!!!

LUKE: I...I...

Sound: The lightsaber deactivates, and clatters to the floor.

DARK EMPIRE TRILOGY

LUKE: *YES.*

Sound: Rustling of cloth, as Luke kneels before the Emperor.

LUKE: (with a new, dangerous tone to his voice) My father's destiny...is my own.

EMPEROR: (triumphant) It is *done*, my young apprentice! Let us celebrate our conquest of the galaxy!! (A long, echoing laugh...)

SCENE 2-2 EXT. DA SOOTCHA CAVERN

Sound: The cavern hanger is in full bustle.

DECK OFFICER: (over intercom) Pinnacle Base trainees, General Solo is now demonstrating the new prototype E-Wing fighter at the main hangar.

HAN: Okay, you trainees, thanks for signing up with the Alliance, now let's get down to business.

TRAINEE: (whispering) Man, is General Solo in a bad mood or what?

TRAINEE TWO: (whispering) I'd like a blast at his mind--

TRAINEE: (whispering) I hear he's peeved 'cuz he's stuck here with the fleet--

HAN: (loudly) Hey! You guys wanna run this training program? (normally) All right, then. As I was saying--a major weapons manufacturing plant on Norval II just deposed their governor and joined the Rebellion. You're looking at the result. The latest hot Imperial fighter.

TRAINEES: (whistles and gasps of awe)

TOM VEITCH & JOHN WHITMAN

HAN: We've got it. And you guys get to fly it. Not only do you get to fly it, you get to fly it tomorrow.

TRAINEE: Why's that, General Solo?

HAN: Cuz' we just got word we're getting the stuffing kicked out of us on Calamari by those new World Devastators. I haven't gone up against them unfortunately, but I'm told they're meaner than the Death Star. So you guys have got your work cut out for you. Now, over here we've got--

THREEPIO: Excuse me, sir, but--

HAN: Later, Threepio. Now, over here we've got the latest Alliance fighter craft, the E-Wing--

THREEPIO: Sir--

HAN: It's a good ship, but we've had to beef up the cannons to the point where they might blow up in your face.

THREEPIO: General Solo--

HAN: WHAT!?!

THREEPIO: It's Princess Leia, sir. She's locked herself in her chamber. She refuses to answer anyone!

SCENE 2-3 INT. HAN AND LEIA'S QUARTERS

Sound: Door opens.

HAN: Leia?

LEIA: (quiet, distant) Yes, Han. I'm here.

HAN: Sitting alone. In the dark. Can I turn on some lights?

DARK EMPIRE TRILOGY

LEIA: Hm? Oh.... yes.

Sound: Han flicks the light switch.

HAN: There, that's better. What's going on?

LEIA: (sad) I'm sorry, Han. I just can't escape this feeling of dread...

HAN: You need cheering up, is all. Come outside, see what's happening. The whole galaxy is pulling together against the Empire--

LEIA: Han...I shouldn't have listened to you. I shouldn't have listened to Luke. I hear...terrible laughter. Something *awful* has happened, Han. We've...(swallows) we may have lost him.

HAN: Hey, Ol' Luke's got more tricks up his sleeve than--

LEIA: Don't be a fool, Han. Luke's in serious trouble, and I have to help him!! Don't you see? This isn't about you or me! It's not even about our children, because if we don't help him, our children won't have any life at all!!! It's about Luke. It's about the whole galaxy. Han, he needs me!!

HAN: Yeah. But.... aw man, they told me marriage to a Jedi princess wasn't gonna be easy.

LEIA: Han, don't be angry.

HAN: I'm not angry. It's just, I've got this bad feeling about this...

SCENE 2-4 EXT. DA SOOTCHA CAVERN

Sound: Same as before. Footsteps coming up. The sparking of welding tools.

TOM VEITCH & JOHN WHITMAN

HAN: (somber) Chewie? Chewie?

Sound: Welding stops.

CHEWBACCA: GREET'S HAN.

HAN: Chewie, when you finish repairing the flux stabilizers...fuel up the *Falcon*. We've got a date with the Dark Side.

SCENE 2-5 INT. STAR DESTROYER EMANCIPATOR
BRIDGE

Sound: The hum of normal ship activity. Comlink static.

LANDO: Affirmative, Rebel base. This is Lando Calrissian. Star Destroyer *Emancipator* will leave hyperspace over the planet Calamari in fifty-eight seconds.

Sound: Comlink goes off.

WEDGE: General Calrissian, we've intercepted a new hyperspace communications channel, beamed between Calamari's orbit and the galactic core. They're transmitting images of the destruction of Calamari!

LANDO: They're doing us a real favor by beaming us those images, Wedge. Recalculate our exit from hyperspace at two degrees from their point of transmission!

WEDGE: Lando, are you crazy?! If we leave hyperspace at those coordinates, we'll smash right into whatever's sending the signal!

LANDO: That's the idea, Wedge.

WEDGE: If you say so, Lando...Coordinates locked in. We exit hyperspace in thirty-three seconds.

DARK EMPIRE TRILOGY

LANDO: Stand by to cut in sublight engines. Prepare to fire all forward turbolasers and ion cannons at my command.

Sound: Hyperspace reversion--

WEDGE: Imperial Star Destroyer dead ahead!!

LANDO: FIRE!!!

Sound: A fusillade from the Emancipator--and a series of explosions as the Imperial ship is crippled.

WEDGE: We've done it! That Super Star Destroyer was caught with its deflector shields down, it's hit!!

LANDO: Signal the other ships! Concentrate all firepower on the remaining Star Destroyer!

Sound: Several volleys of fire.

LANDO: That's it! Inform Pinnacle Base we're in position over Calamari. Deflector shields up! Prepare to take further offensive action!

WEDGE: The rest of the fleet is through, sir! They're holding off the other enemy ships.

LANDO: Drop the X-Wing fighters and transports. We've got to get down there and hammer those Devastators!

Sound: A sound like a meteor falls and hits.

Note: All Green fighters are over intercom.

GREEN LEADER: Affirmative, Emancipator. A-Wing fighters, target that Destroyer with concussion missiles.

GREEN TWO: Affirmative, Green Leader. Concussion missiles locked onto shield generators. Missiles away--

TOM VEITCH & JOHN WHITMAN

Sound: Two sets of two torpedoes shoot out--and connect.

GREEN THREE: Watch those TIE Fighters. They're directing their energy output to thrusters.

Sound: The roar of multiple TIE's. Fire is being exchanged throughout the rest of the scene.

GREEN TWO: Missiles on target (explosion)--direct hit!

GREEN LEADER: *Emancipator*, this is Green Leader. A-Wing fighters have things under control. Green team entering upper atmosphere of Mon Calamari.

LANDO: Copy, Green Leader. Good luck against those Devastators.

SCENE 2-6 INT. WORLD DEVASTATOR SILENCER
SEVEN

Sound: The sounds of battle continue, although muted. Comlink crackle.

ALLEGIANCE OFFICER: *Silencer Seven*, Imperial Star Destroyer *Allegiance*. Rebel forces have-

OFFICER: Commander Klev, we're receiving distress calls from our space fleet.

Sound: Dull thudding sounds as Rebel fire rocks the World Devastator.

OFFICER: And now *we're* being attacked from low orbit! X-Wing Fighters and speeders, launched from an *Imperial-Class* Star Destroyer!

COMMANDER KLEV: Interesting. It must be the contemptible Rebel Alliance. They captured two of our ships at Endor, years ago.

DARK EMPIRE TRILOGY

OFFICER: Sir, you and I both know those X-Wings are nothing but antiques! They haven't the slightest chance of penetrating the defenses of this World Devastator!

COMMANDER KLEV: (amused) Yes, and they can hardly realize the destructive power at our command. Their game is over. Send a message to Byss. Inform Supreme Commander Skywalker of the Rebel presence. Meanwhile, let's allow these Rebels a brief moment of hope...

SCENE 2-7 EXT. MON CALAMARI BATTLEFIELD

GREEN LEADER: (over comlink) Green Leader calling Calamari world defense.

CAPTAIN GAMMACK: We read you, Green Leader. This is Captain Gammack. My battalion's about all that's left in this sector. But we're glad to see you.

GREEN LEADER: Prepare your people for--Green Four, watch that cover fire!! Prepare your people for evacuation, Captain Gammack. Just give us five minutes to blast these overgrown garbage smashers to pieces.

SCENE 2-8 INT. SILENCER SEVEN BRIDGE

OFFICER: Commander Klev, two of our ships actually report minor hits! *Silencer Four* has lost two turbolaser stations! *Silencer Six* reports damage to its' munitions warehouse! Their assault's about to shut down our aft hangar bay!

COMMANDER KLEV: Yes, very well. It's time to end this little game. Release the robotic TIE Fighters, and increase our altitude.

TOM VEITCH & JOHN WHITMAN

SCENE 2-9 EXT. MON CALAMARI BATTLEFIELD

CAPTAIN GAMMACK: (ecstatic) Green Leader, this is Captain Gammack. You're doing it! One of those World Devastators is pulling back!!

GREEN LEADER: (over comlink through scene) No, wait...it's releasing some kind of fightercraft...move in to intercept!

Sound: A new, larger wave of TIE's.

GREEN TWO: (comlink) They look like typical TIE Fighters to me.

GREEN LEADER: Negative. Watch their axial rotation. Too smooth for living pilots. Those fighters are computer controlled! Stay sharp, everyone--

Sound: A close brush from a TIE.

GREEN FOUR: It's on my back! I can't shake it!!

GREEN LEADER: Green Three, I'm executing low-ton weave. I've got your man in my sights, Green Four.

GREEN FOUR: I can't shake him!!!!

GREEN LEADER: In my sights...

CAPTAIN GAMMACK: Green Leader, watch your back!! You've got TWO fighters on your tail!

GREEN LEADER: Almost...

CAPTAIN GAMMACK: PULL OUT!! PULL OUT!!!
PULL--

DARK EMPIRE TRILOGY

Sound: A scream and explosion as Green Leader is hit and destroyed, and another as Green Four follows him a split-second later.

SCENE 2-10 INT. STAR DESTROYER EMANCIPATOR BRIDGE

WEDGE: General Calrissian, the World Devastators have just released a whole fleet of advanced TIE Fighters!! They're cutting our ships to ribbons!!!

LANDO: Call our people back! CALL THEM BACK!!!!

WEDGE: We--we *can't!* Th-they're cut off! There's one hungry-looking Devastator in ascent trajectory...

LANDO: (whisper) I think we're in trouble...

SCENE 2-11 INT. HAN AND LEIA'S QUARTERS

Sound: An intercom beep.

LEIA: (just waking up) Uhn...hm.....

Sound: A second beep.

THREEPIO: (over intercom throughout scene) Princess Leia, are you there?

LEIA: Uh...what is it, Threepio?

THREEPIO: Sorry to disturb you, Your Highness. Are you all right?

LEIA: Um.... (swallows hard) I'm fine, Threepio.

THREEPIO: If you don't mind my saying so, you are exhibiting fatigue and illness often associated in humanoid women with--

TOM VEITCH & JOHN WHITMAN

LEIA: I'm fine. What can I do for you?

THREEPIO: May I come by your quarters? I have the most interesting--

LEIA: Of course. Leia out. (turns off intercom, then sighs)
Got to pull myself together. Luke needs me. And now that I'm--

VADER: (echoing) *Leia...Leia...*

Sound: A slow, blowing wind.

LEIA: (gasps) A vision...appearing before me...that black armor, the death mask...F-Father? Is....is it you?

VADER: No. Your father is free, with all the Jedi who went before. And Darth Vader lives no more...(while still echoing, the voice changes to Luke's)...my sister.

LEIA: (relieved) Luke.

LUKE: Leia...do not try to find me. Do not interfere.

LEIA: Why do you wear that armor?

LUKE: Destiny has forced me to follow the path our father took. It was the only way.... the only way to save everything..... from the power of the Dark Side.

LEIA: Luke, NO!! That *can't* be! You know that! How can you save us--by joining the *Dark Side*?? You'll destroy yourself, and you'll destroy us with you!

LUKE: Leia...m-my mind is.... can't...concen--

LEIA: I've got to help him! Try to use the Force to reach him...

DARK EMPIRE TRILOGY

Sound: Humming as Leia calls on the Force--but the humming is suddenly overtaken by humming on a lower--and louder--level.

EMPEROR: (echoing) No, little Jedi!! Skywalker is beyond your reach!! Your brother has risked all--and LOST!!!

Sound: The low humming becomes deafening--and stops abruptly as Leia shrieks and crashes to the ground. After a long moment of silence, the door opens.

THREEPIO: (in the room this time) Princess Leia, I've just had the most fascinating discussion about the complex dining etiquette on the planet Sisk, where all the spider people have eight arms, so it seems--Princess Leia? Princess Leia--oh my word, she's collapsed!!

SCENE 2-12 INT. DA SOOTCHA MEDLAB

Sound: Medical equipment.

LEIA: (weak and moaning) Luke...Luke...

HAN: Take it easy, Leia. It's me, Han. You're safe in the infirmary. Me, Mon Mothma, and Threepio have been looking after you.

MON MOTHMA: You gave us quite a scare, Princess.

THREEPIO: (excited) I thought you had short-circuited. But medical scan indicates you are simply--

LEIA: FINE, Threepio. I said I was fine. Han, Luke--

HAN: What's wrong, Leia? You've been muttering about Luke in your sleep for hours.

LEIA: The Force.... the Force is bringing me closer.... to him. Even though he's light-years away. I must--

TOM VEITCH & JOHN WHITMAN

HAN: Hey, take it easy, Leia. Just sit back, relax for a while.

LEIA: He's in terrible trouble, Han. The Dark Side is swallowing him whole. I've got to find him...before it's too late.

HAN: Sure, why not. There's only 12 million inhabited star systems out there. Shouldn't be too hard--

LEIA: I can find him. The Force will lead me to him.

HAN: Leia, we've talked about this before--

MON MOTHMA: General Solo, may I speak with you for a moment?

HAN: Sure, Mon Mothma.

Sound: The med equipment moves farther away.

MON MOTHMA: (speaking quietly) General Solo, I believe we should follow Princess Leia's advice.

HAN: But she's in no condition to--

MON MOTHMA: Medically, there's nothing wrong with her. Our forces in Calamari are no match for World Devastators. I believe we will never find a way to defeat them without Commander Skywalker's Jedi insights. Therefore, I believe the success of this mission is paramount.

HAN: More important than her life?

MON MOTHMA: More important than my life, your life, and yes, even the life of Leia Organa-Solo. Luke Skywalker is probably the last fully realized Jedi in existence.

HAN: Well, if he's such a great Jedi, how come I always have to keep rescuing him?

DARK EMPIRE TRILOGY

MON MOTHMA: General Solo! Han!

HAN: Okay, okay. Anyway, I was getting antsy playing professor with these green kids you've been recruiting. Besides, Chewie just finished overhauling the *Millennium Falcon* for this trip.

MON MOTHMA: For 'this' trip? (amused) You mean you already expected to leave? Well, that's very foresighted of you!

HAN: Hey, I'm not just a pretty face.

SCENE 2-13 INT. MILLENNIUM FALCON COCKPIT
/ EXT. DA SOOTCHA CAVERN

Sound: The hum of the Falcon's cockpit.

HAN: Chewie, hurry up with those lightspeed calculations.

CHEWBACCA: GROWLS.

HAN: Lock in auxiliary power.

Sound: The hissing and then roaring of the Falcon's engines.

THREEPIO: Sir, I'd just like to thank you for allowing me to accompany you. I fear for poor Artoo-

HAN: Yeah, yeah. Take your seat, Goldenrod, we're about to launch.

THREEPIO: Yes, sir.

HAN: It's you I'm worried about, Leia. You sure you're up to another lightspeed hop? You still look awfully pale.

TOM VEITCH & JOHN WHITMAN

LEIA: I'll be fine, Han. (whisper) I have to be.

DECK OFFICER: (over intercom) *Millennium Falcon*, you are cleared for takeoff. Navicom indicates it's a clear path from here to your destination.

MON MOTHMA: (over intercom) *Millennium Falcon*, this is Mon Mothma. Good luck, General Solo. And bring Skywalker back this time.

HAN: Man, this woman never gets off my case. (turns on intercom) Uh, acknowledged, Mon Mothma. We'll contact you when we reach the planet Nal Hutta.

LEIA: Nal Hutta? But Han, I told you my senses tell me that Luke is somewhere in the galactic core!

HAN: I know. But those systems have been closed off to outsiders for decades. We'll need a ship authorized to land in the secure systems. And I know just where to find it. (hits intercom again) Pinnacle Base, we're clearing tractor beam. Switching to repulsorlift.... and....

Sound: The Falcon roars as it rises off the pad, and blasts into the sky. Sound changes to outside the Falcon, in the hangar.

MON MOTHMA: May the Force be with you! (quietly to herself)....for it is now clear to me that the future of the New Republic depends on the revival of the Jedi Knights. If Luke Skywalker is lost to the Dark Side...(grim).... then the Alliance is finished.

SCENE 2-14 INT. MILLENNIUM FALCON COCKPIT /
GALLEY

Sound: Falcon interior.

DARK EMPIRE TRILOGY

HAN: Okay, let the navicomputer take over, Chewie. The *Falcon*’ll take us right to Nal Hutta. Come on Leia, let’s grab some lunch.

Sound: Cockpit door opens, sound shifts to the galley interior. A computer hums.

COMPUTER: Food dispenser activated. Today’s entrees: Altarian spinefish. Braised Syrrian bloodworm. Mugroot stew.

Sound: Eating sounds.

LEIA: Han, why does that planet sound so familiar to me?

HAN: You mean Nal Hutta? Oh, I may have mentioned it. Try the spinefish, it’s fresh. Nal Hutta means “Glorious Jewel” in the language of the Hutts.

LEIA: The Hutts? Han, isn’t that planet Jabba’s homeworld?

HAN: (evasive) Well yeah, a lot of those big slimy traders did migrate there over the years. Uh, slip some salad. But also it’s the center for smuggling activities across the galaxy. Especially it’s nearest moon, Nar Shaddaa. That’s where we’re heading. The days before...may I have the pepper, please.... in the days before hyperspace travel, Nal Hutta was a heavily populated cargo port, under tight control. ‘Course, there hasn’t been much control over anything lately. Now, the only law on Nal Hutta is the deal you cut with your friend. Or your enemy.

LEIA: But if there are smugglers, won’t there be bounty hunters?

HAN: Sure.

LEIA: But there’s bound to be a price on our heads, after what I did to Jabba the Hutt!

TOM VEITCH & JOHN WHITMAN

HAN: Don't worry about it, Leia. I've got friends there. We'll be fine. (deep breath) Ah, just what I needed--a nice, hot meal.

Sound: Proximity alarm from the Falcon's computer.

THREEPIO: (over intercom) Captain Solo, Chewbacca asked me to inform you that we are approaching Nal Hutta, and receiving an emergency message.

HAN: Patch it through to this monitor, Threepio.

MAKO: (over intercom) Solo, are you out of your mind?!

HAN: Hah, my old friend Mako! Still in charge of the Corellian sector of the spaceport, I see.

MAKO: You're crazy to come here, Solo. Every bounty hunter in the galaxy is looking for you. The Hutts have quadrupled the asking price, dead OR alive!

HAN: Yeah, well it's nice to feel wanted, Mako. Now open the planetary shields.

MAKO: Where have *you* been? Planetary shields conked out six years ago. Come on in, Solo--but you're asking for trouble!

Sound: Turbolaser fire. The Falcon shakes.

HAN: Thanks, Mako. Looks like it's already found us. Solo out.

Sound: A louder blast, and the Falcon REALLY shakes.

HAN: We'd better get up front, Leia.

SCENE 2-15 INT. MILLENNIUM FALCON COCKPIT

DARK EMPIRE TRILOGY

Sound: Cockpit sounds. Door opens. More turbolaser fire.

CHEWBACCA: ROARS IN ANGER.

HAN: Three bounty hunter ships? We got three on our tail already??

Sound: More fire.

HAN: The bounty **MUST** be high. Maybe I oughta collect it myself.

LEIA: Want me to get on the turret gun?

HAN: Nah, these are just local rust-buckets. Real bounty hunters know better than to go up against the *Millennium Falcon*. We'll just outrun these guys.

Sound: The Falcon's engines rev up.

HAN: YEEHAH!! Whoa---turbulence in the upper atmosphere.

CHEWBACCA: GRUMBLES.

Sound: Falcon's shaking constantly now. More laser fire.

HAN: Strap yourself in there, you furry oaf! I can't watch your head and my back at the same time!

Sound: More fire, and a ship passes the Falcon.

HAN: Hang on, we're entering the upper atmosphere. (close blast) Yikes, that was a close one! Angle the deflector shields, Chewie.

CHEWBACCA: COMPLIES.

TOM VEITCH & JOHN WHITMAN

HAN: Whoo--I've spent so much time wet-nursing those trainees I forgot how much fun this was! Okay, let's see how fast these local boys can go!

DENGAR: (over intercom) You won't lose me that easy, Solo!!

HAN: Dengar! Is that you, Dengar? Hah hah! Well, I must be moving up in the world if I'm attracting a better breed of bounty hunter like you!

DENGAR: (over laser fire) Keep talking, Solo. I just want you to know it's me that finally got you. Dengar out.

HAN: (laughs nervously) Oh boy, this is not good... Let's get to the chute fast, Chewie.

LEIA: The chute?

HAN: Yeah, it's the entrance to a hideout. *The* hideout, as a matter of fact. I got a friend who lives there. Hold on.... here we go!

LEIA: This is the chute? It's barely wide enough for the *Falcon*! Those bounty hunters are still on our tail. We've got no room to maneuver!

DENGAR: (over intercom) So much for your fancy flying, Solo. Got you in my sights--

HAN: Chewie, put everything into the rear deflector shields, FAST!!

CHEWBACCA: HASTILY DOES SO.

Sound: Point-blank range laser fire hits the Falcon. The whole ship heaves hard.

HAN: Okay, my other buddy's name is Ninx. Let's see, what's his comm-code....?

DARK EMPIRE TRILOGY

Sound: Han punches in Ninx's number as the Falcon shudders from laser fire.

SHUG: Han! I just got off the link with Mako. Said you were coming my way.

HAN: Yeah, Ninx, I need a place to--

SHUG: No can do, Solo. I'm in enough trouble with the Hutts.

HAN: Come on, pal, I got hotshots shooting on my tail, and you owe me!! I saved your skin when you got caught running ion triggers to the Ziggurats, remember?

SHUG: Yeah, and I paid you back with that free power core I gave you back in--

HAN: Shut the gab, Ninx! I don't have time to barter like the old days, I'm comin' in!

LEIA: Han--Han, you're heading straight for a blast wall!!

HAN: Come on Ninx, don't let me down old buddy...

THREEPIO: We're going to die!!!!

LEIA: Han, you don't have to do this to impress me--aahh!!!

Sound: Zapping sound as the Falcon hits--and passes through--a holoprojection.

HAN: YES! (laughs)

CHEWBACCA: LAUGHS TOO.

HAN: Yeah, I knew he'd come through too.

TOM VEITCH & JOHN WHITMAN

LEIA: We passed right through that blast wall like it wasn't there.

HAN: Private energy shield. A hologram designed to look like a wall. Oldest trick in the smuggler's book.

LEIA: What about the bounty hunters?

HAN: If I know my old pal Ninx, he raised the shield on 'em. They're bantha fodder by now. Better power down and land before we get smashed up too.

Sound: The Falcon sets down.

SCENE 2-16 INT. SHUG NINX'S STARSHIP CHOP SHOP

Sound: Heavy factory noise, mixed with bangar noises. The Falcon's ramp lowers, and the heroes step out.

LEIA: Han, what is this place?

HAN: Ninx fixes starships. Specializes in illegal engine modifications that can outrun the Imperials.

LEIA: This is quite an operation. What's that big ship they're building over there?

HAN: I dunno. We're about to find out.

SHUG: Solo, Chewbacca! (hugs Han) Haven't seen you guys in a Rancor's age.

HAN: Hey, Ninx.

CHEWBACCA: GRUNTS OUT A GREETING.

SHUG: You guys never should have come here. Heard you killed Jabba. Nobody kills a Hutt and lives.

DARK EMPIRE TRILOGY

HAN: Yeah, well, actually.... my wife did it. Leia, this old space pirate is Shug Ninx. He's got a Corellian heart of gold....and silver...and spice.

SHUG: Pleasure to meet you, lovely lady. So you aced ol' Jabba, huh? Guess you're a lot tougher than you look.

THREEPIO: Excuse me, but would you mind if I used your oil-bath? No one's bothered to lubricate me, they're so busy fighting.

SHUG: Sure! Right over there, gold dome. Now I don't know what you're doing here, Solo, but I want you guys to know ol' Ninx will be more than happy to put his own life on the line for you.

SALLA: But the truth is, we can't help you.

HAN: (startled) Salla!!

(Note: Although Salla is an ordinary black human in the comic, she speaks with an amplified, feline tone in the tape version.)

SALLA: Han Solo, you nerf-herding son of a-- (growls) How many years has it been since you walked out on me?

HAN: And you look beautiful as ever, Salla. But look, Ninx, about that help I need--

SHUG: Listen, Han. The Imperials are buying up cargo space on every tin can in the galaxy. The action is heavy equipment runs. Moving military hardware. We ain't got time for the business we got. That's why Salla is building that monster ship you saw back there. "*The Starlight Intruder*."

HAN: All we need is a ship that's legal for making a deep-core run. The Alliance will pay 100,000 credits, in cash.

TOM VEITCH & JOHN WHITMAN

CHEWBACCA: GUARANTEES IT.

SALLA: Sounds intriguing, Solo. The *Intruder* IS registered for deep core runs. But he's not ready yet. Still needs his hyperdrive overhauled. And power couplings. By the way...who's the lady?

HAN: Oh. This is, uh, er....

LEIA: Leia. My name is Leia. Han and I are married.

SALLA: My condolences, dear. Han's great fun, but he's a scoundrel. He'll break your heart.

HAN: (angry) She likes scoundrels, Salla. Now come on, how long before the *Starlight Intruder's* ship-shape? We're in a big hurry!

SALLA: Not long - *if* Ninx will let me salvage a hyperdrive off one of these other chariots.

SHUG: Sure, why not? But we'll still need top of the line power couplings to get the *Intruder* up to maximum specs for it's deep core run. Now Han, as I recall--

HAN: Yeah, yeah, I still got stuff stashed in my old digs.

SALLA: Of course, the equipment stays on the ship. Even if you don't.

LEIA: What? That's robbery!

HAN: It's all right, Leia. This is how we do business around here.

SALLA: Besides, it's a chance I just can't pass up--(slyly) Han Solo's got the best equipment in the galaxy.

LEIA: Just a minute, you--!

DARK EMPIRE TRILOGY

HAN: (interrupting) You got a deal, Salla. Chewie, help ‘em prep the ships. We’re going after some power couplings.

SALLA: (purrs) Coupling. Hmm. There’s a thought. Hurry back.

SCENE 2-17 EXT. NAR SHADDAA STREET

Sound: Your average poor man’s street, with vendors haggling, and others muttering in low tones.

LEIA: You know the most interesting people, Han Solo.

HAN: You mean Ninx and Salla? They’re good people, Leia. They’d jump down a Sarlacc’s throat for me, as long as I promised them a profit. Ninx and I go way back. He’s even wilder than me.

LEIA: I find that hard to believe.

HAN: He taught me how to tear down a hyperdrive, how to get the most power out of a third-hand Modog power coup--

LEIA: And, uh... Salla?

HAN: (nervous) I think she’s a story for another time. (back to normal) Now the guy that let us planetside, Mako, he’s like a brother to me.

LEIA: The guy we first contacted?

HAN: Yeah. Mako and I met way back when I was a cadet at the Imperial Space Academy. Mako’s my kind of guy. Troublemaker. When we were classmates, he stole a gram of antimatter from the physics lab, and used it to blow up a nearby moon.

LEIA: Sounds like the life of the party.

TOM VEITCH & JOHN WHITMAN

HAN: Actually, I owe him a lot. After I got drummed out of the service, he did me a favor and introduced me to the smuggling business.

LEIA: Hmph. Some favor. Did he introduce you to this place? (disgusted) How could you have lived here?

HAN: Nar Shaddaa's nothin' to look at, but I called it home. Just a place where I could stash my gear between jumps, really.

LEIA: Ugh, look at the garbage. And the smell...

HAN: Yeah, the city seems to have fallen on hard times. Not as nice as I remember. But then, nothing ever is.

Sound: A humming sled, coming close.

HAN: Hey, duck--!

LEIA: (grunts as Han pulls her down to the ground) Hey, what's the idea?

Sound: The unmistakable sound of a Hutt laughing. "Ho Ho Ho...."

HAN: Keep your head down. You see that hoversled floating by, carrying one of those big, wormy slime-covered--
-

LEIA: (shocked) It looks just like Jabba the Hutt! But I killed him!

HAN: Gotta be one of his relatives. They all look alike. And they all have long memories.

LEIA: Did he see us?

HAN: I don't think so. But we better cool it for a minute.

DARK EMPIRE TRILOGY

VIMA: (an old, crackly voice) You...Jedi!!

LEIA: Who said that?

VIMA: Vima speaks.

HAN: Well, look at that--a talking pile of rags.

LEIA: Han, it's a old woman. A poor homeless woman.

HAN: What does she say?

VIMA: Jedi, Jedi!! Vima knows! Vima can see the Force!
Vima can FEEL the Force!

HAN: Hey, that's my wife you've got your paws on--

LEIA: It's okay, Han. Let me talk to her.

VIMA: Oh daughter of the Force, can you forgive Vima for her crimes?

LEIA: Who are you? I can feel the Force in you.... covered by a great shadow.

VIMA: For 200 years, daughter, Vima was Jedi. (sadly) Vima betrayed her own. Vima tried to forget, in the time of dying..Vima hurled herself down among the lost, to escape the great scourge.

HAN: Great scourge?

LEIA: She must mean when the Empire began hunting down the Jedi Knights.

VIMA: (agitated) Yes, yes!! Everyone was hunted!! Everyone was killed!! But you.... you live!!! You contain the spark that will rekindle the fire!! Jedi, Great Jedi she is, Vima can feel. Take this gift. What is inside will help you.

TOM VEITCH & JOHN WHITMAN

(In the comic only: A lizard-like creature waves something at Han. “Ne chutta ka wonga?” “No, I don’t need a hyperspace compass. Buzz off.”)

LEIA: This old box? But wh-what’s inside?

VIMA: Vima wants you to have it. It was Vima’s. Now, it is yours.

LEIA: I don’t know what to say.

HAN: Come on Leia, the Hutts are gone. We should get moving.

LEIA: Wait, I have to thank--she’s gone. She vanished.

HAN: Let’s do the same thing. My place is just around the corner.

Sound: Street noise decreases as Han reaches the door.

HAN: Here we go. Just push the intercom and see if Zeezee is still on the job.

ZEEZEE: (a old, tired-sounding droid) You have reached the residence of Mr. Han Solo.

HAN: Zeezee, it’s me. Open up. (to Leia) Zeezee’s my housekeeping droid.

ZEEZEE: I apollooogize MisterSolo--Misstterr Sollooo is notathome.

HAN: I AM MISTER SOLO!! OPEN UP!! Lousy second-hand housekeeping droid--been away so long his servos are probably rusted through. Aw, forget it, I’ll just hit the override.

Sound: Han works on a keypad. The door opens.

DARK EMPIRE TRILOGY

HAN: In we go.

SCENE 2-18 INT. HAN'S HOUSE

Sound: The door closes.

LEIA: (sarcastic) Oh, lovely place you've got here, Han. Why didn't you bring me here on our honeymoon?

HAN: Man, what a mess! Gosh, Zeezee, I see you did a great job taking care of the place while I was gone!

ZEEZEE: Missttterr Solo sogood to see youuuuu.

HAN: Yeah, thanks. Now--

ZEEZEE: A Missttterr Fett to see you sirrrrrrr
AMisterFetttosee you sirrrr AMisterFetto see youu sirrr....

HAN: Mister WHO!?!? What the---

Sound: A gun is cocked.

BOBA FETT: Greetings, Solo.

HAN: Boba Fett?!?!?

LEIA: But you're dead!!

HAN: Yeah, I saw you fall into that pit back on Tatooine!

BOBA: The Sarlacc found me somewhat indigestible, Solo. Now, I'm back to collect my debts. And *this* time, I've brought friends.

DENGAR: Hello again, Solo.

TOM VEITCH & JOHN WHITMAN

HAN: Dengar. I thought I left you smashed up against the shield wall of Ninx's garage. Or do ALL you bounty hunters come with extra lives?

ZEEZEE: ppppppourrsomesecoffee Pour some coffeeee?

HAN: How'd you know where to find me?

DENGAR: Your friend Mako's been *real* helpful. Told us right where to find you.

MAKO: (cold) Hello, Solo.

HAN: Mako...after all these years, you're adding betrayal to your list of accomplishments?

MAKO: Sorry, Han. The asking price was just too good. I gotta be thinking of my old age.

BOBA: A lot of people would pay to see you dead, Solo. But the Hutts are paying more for you alive. They want to *watch* you die.

ZEEZEE: Peerrrhaps some tea, thereeee.....

HAN: Yeah, Zeezee, pour them some--

BOBA: Get out of the way, you stupid droid!!

Sound: Zeezee walks right into Fett, sending both to the floor.

HAN: Now's our chance, Leia! Make a break for it!

Sound: Han fires one shot, opens the door, and ducks out with Leia.

ZEEZEE: Perrrhappss you'd likeee some creecamm wouldyoulikecream wwwouldddd you lll....

DARK EMPIRE TRILOGY

SCENE 2-19 EXT. NAR SHADDAA STREET/ SPACEPORT

Sound: Same bustle as before, turning to panic as blaster shots are heard.

LEIA: How romantic--we're BOTH wanted by the Hutts.

HAN: Yeah, husband and wife, marked for death. Watch out, Boba Fett's deadly accurate with those wrist rockets of his. Turn left here, down this alleyway. I know this city like the back of my hand.

LEIA: Turn here?

HAN: No, here, HERE!! Down this alley, right into---oops...

Sound: Hoversled.

HUTT: Ba Cheesa....

LEIA: Did the back of your hand tell you there would be a big slimy Hutt on his hoversled, surrounded by bodyguards down here?!?

HAN: Behind this pillar!!

Sound: More blaster fire.

LEIA: Bounty hunters behind us, and Hutt bodyguards in front of us!

HAN: I hope Lando's having better luck than we are...

SCENE 2-20 INT. STAR DESTROYER EMANCIPATOR BRIDGE

Sound: The sounds of a very one-sided space battle. From the sound of hundreds of TIE's, the Rebels are losing, and losing big.

TOM VEITCH & JOHN WHITMAN

WEDGE: General Calrissian, that World Devastator has left the atmosphere! It's on an intercept course with us!!

LANDO: Gunners, target all weapons systems on that approaching Devastator!

Sound: Multiple turbolasers are fired.

WEDGE: Turbolasers are ineffective against their shields! (hits intercom) *Emancipator* to Pinnacle Base? *Emancipator* to Pinnacle Base!! We're in trouble! One of those world smashers is coming straight at us!!

LANDO: Fire all forward torpedoes!!

Sound: Multiple torpedoes fire.

WEDGE: I'm trying.... our forward firing systems won't respond! The nose of our ship has been incinerated by that monster!! It's no use, Lando! In a few minutes, *Emancipator's* going to be nothing but scrap!

LANDO: ARRRGGHH!!! That's TWO Star Destroyers I've lost!! All personnel to the escape pods. (Sigh) Things haven't been this bad for the Alliance since Vader was alive!!!

SCENE 2-21 EXT. NAR SHADDAA SPACEPORT

LEIA: Nice going, Han. We're trapped in a crossfire.

HAN: Yeah, and every bounty hunter in town seems to be joining the party.

HUTT: Na shan nee cho sha pan kee.

BOBA: Everyone back off!! Solo's MINE!!

HAN: Watch it--Boba Fett's making his move!

DARK EMPIRE TRILOGY

Sound: Boba fires--and hits the Hutt on his hoversled.

HUTT: (Coughs and gasps as he falls off the sled)

HAN: (laughs) Look at that! Boba Fett hit that fat slug of a Hutt instead of us!! Knocked him right off his floater--

LEIA: Come on, there's our chance!! Get on board!

Sound: Han and Leia jump on the sled.

LEIA: Ugh!! What's on this thing?!?

HAN: Man, I never thought a Hutt's slime tracks would smell so sweet.

LEIA: Okay, I'm on. Let's go.

HAN: Hang on, Your Worship, I'm trying to figure out these weird knobs and switches....

LEIA: Don't call me "Your Worship"!!! Why is it you always get formal when you're about to (sled suddenly goes into second gear) dooo somethingggg stupiddddd!!!!

HAN AND LEIA: YELL THEIR HEADS OFF AS THE SLED TAKES OFF INTO THE AIR.

BOBA: You won't get away that easy, Solo! One of these days, I'll catch up to you!!!

SCENE 2-22 INT. SLED/ INT. STARLIGHT
INTRUDER

Sound: Humming of the sled.

TOM VEITCH & JOHN WHITMAN

HAN: There's Ninx's garage up ahead. And look--*Starlight Intruder's* ready to take off. Man, Salla's great. Trust an old girlfriend to help out a guy in a jam.

LEIA: Somehow, your "old girlfriends" don't inspire that much trust in me.

SHUG: (far below, shouting to be heard) Han, move your butt!! They're broadcasting your location all over the comm-net!!

Sound: The sled comes to a landing. Han and Leia climb out. The Intruder's hatch opens.

HAN: What about the *Millennium Falcon*?

SHUG: She's stowed in the cargo bay. Come on.

HAN: Here we go...hey Chewie, give Leia a hand.

CHEWBACCA: GRUNTS.

Sound: Changes to Starlight Intruder interior. Hatch shuts.

HAN: Okay Ninx, we're aboard. Let's vacate this dead moon.

Sound: Engines warm up.

SHUG: Blast out of here, Salla!

Sound: Engines roar.

HAN: Whoa!!

SALLA: How are we doing, Ninx?

SHUG: Fine, Salla. Navicomputer says the *Starlight Intruder* is cleared all the way to Byss.

DARK EMPIRE TRILOGY

SALLA: But will he stall out in hyperspace? That's what worries me. I've rebuilt the hyperdrive motivator three times, and it's still shaking like Andorian jellyfish. I could have used those couplings of yours.

HAN: You'll handle it, Salla. No one can coax an engine like you can.

LEIA: Huh? What's this? Oh! In the excitement, I never opened the box that old woman gave me!

HAN: What you got there, Leia?

LEIA: Let's open it and see.

Sound: Box opens.

LEIA: (gasps) Oh, Han...that woman WAS a Jedi. This is a lightsaber. And an old one, from the looks of it.

HAN: Kinda like the woman who gave it to you--a real antique.

LEIA: Han, will you ever understand? For better or for worse, you're married to a Jedi now.

HAN: I understand the things that matter.

LEIA: This lightsaber has a long history. It has a strong connection to the Force. (Sound: The Force begins to hum) I can feel it...helping me focus my power...(Sound: Force grows stronger) (gasp)

HAN: Leia! What's wrong??

LEIA: The vision...I-I can't stop it!!! NO!!!

SHUG: Hey, Han, is she okay??

LEIA: No no no no no!!!!

TOM VEITCH & JOHN WHITMAN

HAN: Leia, let go of the lightsaber! LET GO!!!

SHUG: Take it out of her hand!!

Sound: Han slaps the lightsaber out of Leia's hands, and it clatters to the floor.

HAN: There!

LEIA: No....Luke...LUKE!!

SHUG: She's still out of it!

HAN: Leia, WHAT'S WRONG???

LEIA: (extremely upset) Han!! It's TERRIBLE!!!!

HAN: Was it the lightsaber??

LEIA: No....when I touched the lightsaber--I tried to reach out with the Force. But all I can see is...(swallows hard) Han, I see Luke. *He's commanding the Imperial forces.* Like our father. I see him sending hundreds--thousands--of ships against the Alliance. I fear we've lost him, Han. I fear we've lost *everything*.....

Music: Swells into the last notes of the ROTJ End Theme. Fade out on all music and sound.

END OF TAPE ONE

TAPE TWO SIDE ONE

DARK EMPIRE TRILOGY

Music: Star Wars Main Theme.

NARRATOR: Six years after the deaths of Darth Vader and the Emperor, the battle rages on.

As rival factions within the Empire struggle for power, the Rebel Alliance is quick to seize the opportunity to sow confusion among the feuding Imperials, using captured Star Destroyers to perform hit-and-run sorties into the war zone. One such raid, over the raging Imperial City battleground, ended in disaster.

The Alliance Star Destroyer *Liberator*, commanded by Luke Skywalker and Lando Calrissian, crash-landed on the planet's surface. Although Princess Leia and her husband Han Solo arrived in time to save their friends, before a mysterious energy storm ravaged the planet, Luke Skywalker refused to leave, sensing that a powerful Dark Side entity had appeared. Princess Leia and the others returned to the Rebel base, only to discover that a new, unknown leader had reassembled the vast forces of the Empire.

What they did not know was that it was *the Emperor himself*, resurrected by the awesome power of the Dark Side, who had unleashed his powerful "World Devastators" against the rebellious water-covered world of Mon Calamari.

While Lando Calrissian took command of the remaining Star Destroyer to defend Calamari, Leia (a Jedi in her own right) discovered the worst news of all: *Luke Skywalker had crossed over to the Dark Side.*

Aided by two Corellian smugglers, Han and Leia journey to the planet Byss, to the heart of the Dark Side, to rescue Luke. Meanwhile, Lando Calrissian faces overwhelming odds, as a space battle rages over the planet Calamari...

SCENE 3-1 INT STAR DESTROYER EMANCIPATOR BRIDGE/ INT. ESCAPE POD

Sound: The sound of destruction and devastation are never-ending. An alarm is shrieking.

TOM VEITCH & JOHN WHITMAN

WEDGE: We've lost everything! Ion cannons, turbolasers...Lando, all weapons systems are dead!

LANDO: That machine is eating us for lunch! Reverse engines!! Full astern!

WEDGE: Ion engines unresponsive! We're still being sucked into the mouth of that World Devastator.

LANDO: This ship is a lost cause. Jettison the escape pods. (groans) That's two Star Destroyers I've lost.

WEDGE: Come on, Lando! We have to take this last escape pod!

Sound: The bridge instruments fade as Lando and Wedge enter the escape pod. The pod's hatch shuts.

WEDGE: Ready to launch.

LANDO: Ohhh, I guess I just wasn't cut out to command Star Destroyers....

Sound: Blasting noise as the pod bursts free of the dying Star Destroyer.

WEDGE: Pod away! We're cleared of the Star Destroyer. Whew--just in time!

LANDO: Yeah. And floating around space like Mynocks in a shooting gallery.

SCENE 3-2 INT. WORLD DEVASTATOR SILENCER
SEVEN FIRING ROOM

COMMANDER KLEV: There's another escape pod, cadet.

CADET: I don't see anything, sir! Where?

DARK EMPIRE TRILOGY

KLEV: (angry) Right there on your screen! I can't believe an idiot like you has been assigned to my World Devastator.

CADET: I-I'm sorry, Commander!

KLEV: Never mind! Just arm your turboblaster.

Sound: Clicking of instruments.

KLEV: Good. Now activate your targeting computer.

Sound: Computer is activated.

COMPUTER: Target acquired. One escape pod, two life forms aboard.

KLEV: You may fire when ready.

SCENE 3-3 INT. PALACE ROOM - BYSS

Sound: The sounds of destruction are quieter, and half-filtered through a holoscreen.

LUKE: (sounding darker and colder than ever) The Rebels have no hope against your World Devastators, my Master.

EMPEROR: (amused) You mean *our* World Devastators, young Skywalker. It is beautiful, is it not, my young apprentice, to be the cause of so much destruction?

LUKE: The art of misery knows no one greater than you, my Master.

EMPEROR: You take too little credit, my son! It was *you* who predicted the Rebels would send their remaining Star Destroyer to Calamari. **YOU** are the victor here. Now do you see the power of the Dark Side?

TOM VEITCH & JOHN WHITMAN

LUKE: Only too well. But I must leave you, my Master. I have duties to attend.

EMPEROR: And miss the final death throes of the Rebellion?? Ah, well, the loss is yours.

Sound: Footsteps as Luke leaves the throne room. We follow Luke through a corridor and up to a door.

COMPUTER: Imperial War Room. Authorized personnel only. Identify.

LUKE: Luke Skywalker, Supreme Imperial Commander.

COMPUTER: Voice authorization confirmed.

Sound: Door opens, and we hear the sounds of a room filled with computers. Luke begins typing on a computer console.

LUKE: Now, to give the Rebellion a surprise it will never forget...

SCENE 3-4 INT. WORLD DEVASTATOR SILENCER
SEVEN FIRING ROOM

KLEV: Cadet, what are you waiting for?!? FIRE!!!

CADET: Yes, Commander Klev. Escape pod targeted...firing sequence engaged.... and--firing!!

Sound: A muffled group of explosions.

KLEV: Great Lords of the Sith, what was that?!? (hits intercom) Bridge, report!!

CREWMAN: Commander, a new fleet of Rebel fighters has just come out of hyperspace. We're under attack!

DARK EMPIRE TRILOGY

SCENE 3-5 INT. ESCAPE POD

(Note: All voices in scene are over intercom, except for Lando and Wedge.)

KNAVE LEADER: Knave Team, this is Knave Leader. Sublight power engaged. Deflector shields on. Arm turbos and ion cannon.

WHITE LEADER: White team, this is White Leader. Concentrate your fire on that rear scanning tower.

WHITE TWO: Right behind you, White Leader.

KNAVE LEADER: Knave Leader to Blue Leader: I count 8--make that 9--9 escape pods transmitting Alliance codes.

BLUE LEADER: Affirmative, Knave Leader. Blue Leader to Blue Team: Transfer energy from ion cannons to shields and lasers.

KNAVE LEADER: Locking S foils into position....

KNAVE TWO: Look at the size of the machines!

BLUE THREE: Must be five kilometers high!!

BLUE LEADER: Cut the chatter, Blue Team. Fan out, defensive formation Delta. Protect those escape pods.

KNAVE LEADER: Knave Leader to all teams, beginning our attack run!!!

LANDO: Listen to that, Wedge!!!

WEDGE: Looks like half the galaxy's arrived, Lando! Look out the observation port. X-Wings, Frigates, even those new E-Wing Fighters.

TOM VEITCH & JOHN WHITMAN

CAPTAIN NEVA: Escape Pod ES17T, this is *Antares Six*.

LANDO: HEY, ARE WE GLAD TO SEE YOU!!!

CAPTAIN NEVA: You guys look like you could use a lift.

SCENE 3-6 INT. WORLD DEVASTATOR SILENCER
SEVEN BRIDGE

KLEV: Rebel SCUM!!! Did they really think they could penetrate our defenses with these new ships?

CREWMAN: Commander Klev, we've got a problem! The Master Control computer on Byss is transmitting improper signals. It's shutting us down!!

KLEV: WHAT!?! That's impossible! Put *Silencer Seven* on override!! Do you hear me?? Override all systems!!

COMMANDER: Override confirmed, sir. We're okay. But *Silencer Five's* override has failed to respond! The Master Control signal has locked out its override command!

SCENE 3-7 INT. ANTARES SIX BRIDGE

KNAVE LEADER: (over intercom, as with all Knave fighters) Knave team, this is Knave Leader. That World Devastator is frozen in place.

KNAVE THREE: Knave Three here. I see it, but I don't believe it.

KNAVE LEADER: Watch yourself, Knave Three. That forward turbolaser is still firing.

Sound: A small explosion.

DARK EMPIRE TRILOGY

KNAVE THREE: I'm hit, I'm hit!!!

KNAVE LEADER: Go planetside! Ditch her in the ocean!
Knave Two, can you see where--?

KNAVE TWO: Affirmative--He burned up; he burned up in the atmosphere.

KNAVE LEADER: Come on, let's blast that thing to pieces while it's immobilized.

LANDO: I'm glad to be out of that escape pod, Wedge.
Antares Six feels like a luxury liner after that floating coffin.

WEDGE: (incredulous) It's got a better view, too. Check out the screen.

LANDO: (incredulous himself) I see it! That big World Devastator's on fire!!! Spinning out of orbit! It's *crashing!!*

WEDGE: Those new E-Wings must have found the Devastator's weak spot.

LANDO: Not the way I saw it, Wedge. That World Devastator self-destructed. Whoever's in charge of those monsters is an idiot. You'd almost think he WANTS to lose!

SCENE 3-8 INT. HYPERSPACE MARAUDER BRIDGE

Sound: Hum of ship's engines.

SALLA: Do you want to lose your fingers or what, Solo?!

HAN: Sorry, Salla. I-I just can't help it...

SALLA: Keep your hands off my instruments. Nobody flies the *Starlight Intruder* but me. How we doing, Ninx?

TOM VEITCH & JOHN WHITMAN

SHUG: Fine. We're entering the Deep Core Security Zone. Planet Byss has acknowledged our approach. But the whole planet is protected by heavy-duty shield generators.

HAN: Kinda like the system we took out on the Endor moon. But you're clear to land, right?

Sound: Crackle of intercom.

COMPUTER: *Starlight Intruder*, this is planet security. We have confirmation of your registration code, but our scanner indicates you have an uncleared ship stored in your cargo bay.

LEIA: They've detected the *Falcon*!

SHUG: Ah, affirmative...uh, it's an empty hulk we picked up. Yeah, yeah, that's it--j-just junk we picked up for salvage.

COMPUTER: Acknowledged. The planetary perimeter shield will open in exactly 3.2 seconds. Follow your pre-arranged flight path, or you will be vaporized. If you make any sudden maneuvers, you will be vaporized. If you deviate from your course by one degree, you will be vaporized. Welcome to the planet Byss. (intercom goes off)

Sound: The Intruder's engines quiet, and the ship sets down.

SALLA: Okay, we're docking.

HAN: Where are we?

SALLA: At the Imperial freight complex at the outskirts of the city.

SHUG: We're tapped into the city's computer network...We got cargo bays all around us. The whole area's patrolled by hunter-killer droids the size of small moons. And just west of us, we've got...well, looks like somebody opened up a bar right here on Byss. (chuckles) Wonder if the drinks are any good.

DARK EMPIRE TRILOGY

HAN: Never mind that. What else is around?

SHUG: About four clicks east, we got one serious security zone. Must be something really big happening there. Electronic barricades, surveillance equipment all over the place.

LEIA: Luke is there. I can feel him. Han, you have to let me pilot the *Falcon*. I'll take us to Luke.

Sound: Leia heads towards the Intruder's cargo bay.

HAN: Pilot the *Falcon*?? I don't know about that, Leia--this place is crawling with hunter-killer droids. You don't really have that much experience--

SALLA: You better quit talking and start walking, Solo. Your wife is already heading for the *Falcon*.

HAN: (heading off) Leia? Leia....

SCENE 3-9 INT. MILLENNIUM FALCON COCKPIT -
A SHORT TIME LATER

HAN: (nervous as hell) Leia, keep your eye on the auxiliary power.

LEIA: (amused) Yes, Han.

HAN: And-and steady that forward stabilizer.

LEIA: Han--

HAN: Keep your eyes on your flying!!!

CHEWBACCA: MOANS IN FEAR.

SHUG: Talk about a back seat pilot.

TOM VEITCH & JOHN WHITMAN

SALLA: (laughs) Poor Solo never could stand to have a woman in the driver's seat, hmm?

LEIA: Han, stop being so protective. You taught me everything I know, darling. (imitating Han) Trust me.

HAN: Yeah, but the *Falcon*'s a tricky--

LEIA: Now be quiet. I need to concentrate on Luke.

Sound: The Force rises, softly.

LEIA: (to herself, whispering) Luke...

LUKE: (echoing in her head) Leia...

LEIA: I'm coming...

HAN: Leia? Uh, Leia? You're taking us right into the Imperial security zone!

LEIA: That's where Luke is, Han. See that big tower? We'll land in that hangar on top.

HAN: But this is the security zone!

COMPUTER: (over intercom) Unauthorized vessel, you are in violation of security protocol. If you do not withdraw, you will be destroyed. This is your only warning.

CHEWBACCA: ROARS.

THREEPIO: Ohh, perhaps we should give ourselves up!

Sound: Turbolaser fire.

THREEPIO: Too late!!!

HAN: We're gonna get vaporized!

DARK EMPIRE TRILOGY

LEIA: The Force will get us through, Han.

CHEWBACCA: TELLS HER WHAT HE THINKS OF THE FORCE.

HAN: Yeah, yeah, I know, Chewie. Cool it. I gotta hunch we're gonna need the Force to get us where we're going.

SALLA: We're not going anywhere with that security shooting our backs.

LEIA: Got to use the Force. (sound: Force rises, louder) Got to reach the gunner's mind...

SHUG: You got any suggestions, I'm all--hey? What's with Leia?

LEIA: I am.... (amused) making a suggestion.

SCENE 3-10 INT. BYSS PATROL SHIP GUNNER STATION

PATROL CAPTAIN: Security command, this is patrol XLS. We are in pursuit of unregistered traffic in Security Zone One.

COMPUTER: Acknowledged, XLS. Target ship and destroy.

PATROL CAPTAIN: You heard the order, gunner. Fire when ready! (long pause) Gunner, what are you waiting for?!

GUNNER: They must be using a cloaking device. We've lost visual sighting, and the scanners can't locate them.

PATROL CAPTAIN: (exploding) What do you mean?!? That ship's right there on the screen!!! DESTROY IT!!

TOM VEITCH & JOHN WHITMAN

GUNNER: I'm sorry, sir. The targeting computer is never wrong. Maybe they've dropped behind us--

Sound: The Falcon roars past XLS.

PATROL CAPTAIN: You FOOL!! Now we've missed our chance! That tramp freighter is in violation of the Emperor's personal security zone! We'll BOTH be executed for this!!

SCENE 3-11 INT. EMPEROR'S TOWER - HANGAR

COMPUTER: Unidentified ship now on approach pattern.

DARK GUARD: Permit them to land.

Sound: The Falcon approaches, and lands in the hangar.

COMPUTER: Bioscan indicates five lifeforms and one droid.

DARK GUARD: Prepare to take the prisoners to Lord Skywalker.

HAN: (from far off) We're coming out. We surrender.

THREEPIO: Don't shoot! Don't shoot!

DARK GUARD: Exit with your hands up. Well, well. What a motley crew we have here. A battered protocol droid--

THREEPIO: Battered? Well, if I may say so, sir--

DARK GUARD: An unkempt Wookiee, a common smuggler, a woman, and--but.... weren't there five...?

Sound: Falcon's engines roar into life again. The Falcon fires at the hangar.

DARK EMPIRE TRILOGY

COMPUTER: Alert! Alert! Unauthorized weapons discharge.

DARK GUARD: That ship is escaping!

HAN: Everybody hit the deck. Chewie, use your bowcaster to take out that tracking beam.

CHEWBACCA: AGREES.

THREEPIO: What about me? I'm completely defenseless!

LEIA: Over here, Threepio.

HAN: The plan worked. Ninx 'n' Salla are blasting their way to freedom!

LEIA: That's the last of the guards. We're safe.... for now.

THREEPIO: I don't know why I put so much trust in humans. I always end up getting hurt.

HAN: If Salla's lucky, she'll find a hole to hide the *Falcon* in 'til we need it.

LEIA: Right. Listen, Han, Luke's not far. All we have to do now...

LUKE: (echoing, in vision) Leia...

LEIA: Luke?

HAN: That's not Luke. You can see right through him. That's some sort of a projection. But...those two goons in battle armor look real enough.

LUKE: Leia, you should not have come here. It will not go well. My master wishes to speak with you. These sentinels will escort you to the Emperor's presence.

TOM VEITCH & JOHN WHITMAN

LEIA: The Emperor?!?

CHEWBACCA: GASPS IN SHOCK.

LUKE: Yes...he lives.

SCENE 3-12 INT. PALACE CORRIDOR/ CLONING
CHAMBER

SENTINEL: Prisoners, follow me.

HAN: Keep your mitts off me, you big ape.

CHEWBACCA: MAKES A THREAT.

HAN: No offense, Chewie.

THREEPIO: Excuse me, sir. I am only programmed for etiquette and protocol and not well versed in philosophy, but...isn't the Emperor dead?

Sound: Door opens.

SENTINEL: Through here.

HAN: Yeah. Luke's probably gone crazy. How could the Emperor be alive?

Sound: The hum of machinery, and bubbling from many directions.

SENTINEL: Prisoners, halt!

LEIA: Oh *no*.... I think you have your answer, Han.

HAN: Jeez...

CHEWBACCA: ROARS IN SURPRISE.

DARK EMPIRE TRILOGY

LEIA: They're clones, Chewie. See those transparent pods lined up against the walls?

CHEWBACCA: GROWLS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT.

LEIA: Those are cloning chambers. Each one is filled with amniotic fluid, and--

HAN: And a clone of the Emperor himself.

LEIA: In various stages of growth. Look, he's full-grown in this one, but still a teenager in the one down here.

HAN: Ugh...he was even ugly as a baby.

SENTINEL: Do not touch the generation chamber!

HAN: All right, all right!

LEIA: Why are we here? Where is Luke?

LUKE: I'm here.

LEIA: Luke!

ARTOO: GIVES A TIRED GREETING...OR AS CLOSE TO TIRED AS A DROID CAN GET.

THREEPIO: And Artoo's with him! Oh, Artoo, I've missed you!

SENTINEL: Droid, halt!!

HAN: Careful, Threepio. Luke's brought more of those sentinel goons with him. You must rate pretty high to get the Emperor's personal bodyguards, "old buddy."

LUKE: It was very foolish of you to come here. I *told* you that my destiny was not yours.

TOM VEITCH & JOHN WHITMAN

HAN: (angry, and more than a little sad) I can see you've really gone off the deep end this time, kid. Looks like being a Jedi was just too much for you.

LUKE: (vicious) Be quiet, Han. There are things far beyond the mind and powers of a space pirate. Things you'll *never* understand.

HAN: Hey, wait a minute!! I can read a face, farmboy! You've come a long way from the idealistic kid who couldn't wait to get off Tatooine and join the Rebellion. A long way DOWN.

LEIA: Han, take it easy! We don't know what's happened!

THREEPIO: (shocked) Master Luke!! Artoo says they've erased his main programming!!! How could you LET them?!

LUKE: (a bit regretful) Threepio...I wish I could explain...

SENTINEL: Lord Skywalker. The Master wishes to meet our guests.

LUKE: (regaining his "evil" mien) Of course. Take their weapons. Leia, give me that lightsaber.

HAN: (pulls out his blaster) Not on your life!

LUKE: Han, put away your blaster!

HAN: We're leaving here now! And *this* time, you're coming with us!!

Sound: The low-pitch Force ROARS, and Han's blaster flies out of his hand and into Luke's.

HAN: Hey!!

DARK EMPIRE TRILOGY

LUKE: Be grateful, Han. I only used the Force to pull the blaster from your hand. (coldly) I could just as easily have ripped your arm off along with it. Sentinel, take him!!

Sound: Sentinel seizes Han.

LUKE: And take the Wookiee too.

CHEWBACCA: IS ALMOST OUT OF HIS MIND WITH OUTRAGE.

SENTINEL: Prisoners secured.

Sound: Sentinel is choking Han with a headlock.

LUKE: Now, Leia...(threatening) GIVE ME that lightsaber!!

Sound: Leia's lightsaber ignites.

LEIA: Come and take it!!

EMPEROR: (from far off) Good...good....

LEIA: (gasps) The Emperor himself!!

LUKE: Leia, don't be a fool!!

LEIA: (almost crying) I don't know what he did to you, Luke, but get back!!

EMPEROR: Excellent! Strike your brother! Then you will see what new powers he's won from the Dark Side of the Force!!

LEIA: (hesitates) I...I won't use this lightsaber on you, Luke. But your sentinels--hey, you overgrown freak, LET GO OF MY HUSBAND!!!

Sound: A lightsaber slash, and the thud of something hitting the ground.

TOM VEITCH & JOHN WHITMAN

SENTINEL: (screams)

HAN: (catching his breath) Thanks.... Leia.... it's good to be.... breathing again.

LEIA: Now we're leaving! And we're taking Luke with us!

EMPEROR: Brave little Jedi. But really, such an old lightsaber is not a worthy weapon for you.

Sound: The Force roars again--the deepest and darkest we've heard yet. The lightsaber in Leia's hands explodes.

LEIA: (shrieks as she drops the saber's remains)

EMPEROR: SENTINELS!!!

SENTINEL TWO: Prisoners restrained.

HAN: (choking again) Not--again--

EMPEROR: Look at you. Brother and sister Jedi. The last of your kind. And I have you both. This one, my dear apprentice, so strong in the Force. He has learned his lessons well. And the sister--so vulnerable, so inexperienced. And yet, she holds the key to the future.

LEIA: Get your hands off me!!!

EMPEROR: Do not worry, little Jedi. I will not harm you. Indeed, I will teach you things you have never imagined. I will show you the REAL power a Jedi can wield. Come, my son.

LUKE: (sounding a LOT like Vader) Yes, my master.

EMPEROR: Bring your friends. Let us reveal to them the wonders I have in store. Let us show them the future of the galaxy...my lovely clones.

DARK EMPIRE TRILOGY

LEIA: (echoing, thinking to herself) Come on, Leia. If there was ever a time to prove you're a Jedi, now's the time. Wait--that power generator's suspended from the ceiling. It's heavy enough to crush a Bantha. If I can just use the Force...

ARTOO: BEEPS IN SURPRISE.

THREEPIO: Power surge? I don't sense a power surge anywhere.

Sound: The Force is getting louder...

EMPEROR: Long ago, I found my flesh could not withstand the awesome demands of the Dark Side. The great Emperor himself discovered he was dying.

LEIA: (whisper) Fall...fall...

EMPEROR: My body was literally consumed by the energies I had released. Fortunately there was a way.... a road to eternal life....

LEIA: (whisper) now...

Sound: The power generator cracks, falls on the Emperor--and explodes.

EMPEROR: (roars with laughter)

LEIA: (gasping with the effort).....how?!?

EMPEROR: Well done, my daughter! Your first step toward the Dark Side of the Force! But it will take more than a Jedi apprentice and a falling object to kill me. Now, let *me* show *you* something!

Sound: The snap, crackle and pop of some all-too-familiar purple lightning.

LEIA: (screams in agony)

TOM VEITCH & JOHN WHITMAN

HAN: Stop it!! STOP!! YOU'RE KILLING HER!!!

CHEWBACCA: RAGES.

LEIA: (weak) L-Luke.... help me.... (hits ground, lightning stops)

HAN: FILTH!!! YOU'VE MURDERED MY WIFE!!!

EMPEROR: Don't worry, my friend. She will live. That was just a little discipline for a Jedi. Sentinels!! Take her to my quarters! It is time to begin her training!

HAN: (straining against the Sentinel) Don't take her!!
LEIA!!!

LUKE: Han, do not interfere.

HAN: (breaks free of the Sentinel) TRAITOR!!! OUT OF MY WAY!!!

LUKE: (growls as he seizes Han and lifts him into the air)
You leave me no choice!!!

HAN: (gasping) Let go of my throat.... Luke...

LUKE: Han, I *strongly* suggest you refrain from any further violence. For Leia's sake.

HAN: You've become--just like him--just like Vader!! Or WORSE!!

CHEWBACCA: ROARS ANGRILY.

THREEPIO: Master Luke, you're *killing* him!!

LUKE: You understand NOTHING of what is taking place.
Or what I'm doing to save the galaxy.

DARK EMPIRE TRILOGY

HAN: You don't deserve to live. For what you've done, Luke...I'll kill you myself. I'll--GAKK~!

Sound: Luke throws Han against the wall. Han crashes against it, but is still held by Luke.

LUKE: That may be true, Han. I may *have* to die. But I assure you, it won't be you who does the deed.

3-13 INT. BYSS CANTINA

Sound: The bustle of a busy bar. A tune is playing in the distance.

LO KHAN: So I says “Thrusters”? I got your thrusters right here, baby!”

LO, SALLA, AND SHUG: (all laugh)

SHUG: Ah, you're a lifesaver, Lo Khan. Thanks for letting us hide the *Millennium Falcon* inside your ship.

LO: Yeah, Ninx, the *Hyperspace Marauder's* got room. But both of you owe me big. If the Imperials find out, I'm dead meat. Got that, Salla?

SALLA: Yeah. And Solo owes me. Byss security impounded my ship, the *Starlight Intruder*. You know how long it took me to build that ship?

LO: That's a debt you'll never collect. Solo and his pals are probably Rancor food by now.

SALLA: Well, if he's not, he'd better show up soon. Or I'm taking the *Falcon* and jumping for home.

SHUG: So what's the deal with this bar full of space jockeys, Lo Khan? The Imperials never let deep core haulers planetside before.

TOM VEITCH & JOHN WHITMAN

LO: It's a military buildup, Ninx. Every pirate ship in a thousand systems is running supplies from Byss to the Imperials offworld.

SALLA: Well, I'm not complaining. It's been a long time since I've been in a joint this classy.

LO: Hmph.

Sound: A comlink beeps for attention.

LO: Hey, that's my comlink.

SHUG: Nah, it's mine. Let's hope it's Solo. Ninx here.

HAN: Ninx, Salla--it's Han. I don't know if you can hear this, but our big plan isn't working out like I wanted. If you're out there, I'm beaming my coordinates. We're in big---

VOICE: (loud and amplified on the comlink) NO TRANSMISSIONS ALLOWED!

3-14 INT. PALACE DUNGEON

Sound: The man the voice belongs to suckerpunches Han in the gut, knocking the comlink to the ground.

HAN: Hey, you broke my comlink!

DARK GUARD: Who did you contact?

HAN: My mother. She worries about me.

Sound: The Dark Guard wails away on Solo again.

DARK GUARD: You will regret your impudence. Into the cell with your Wookiee friend!

DARK EMPIRE TRILOGY

Sound: The Guard kicks Han (literally) into the cell and slams/locks the door.

CHEWBACCA: GROWLS IN CONTEMPT OF THE GUARD.

HAN: I'm okay, Chewie. I'm okay. At least so far. Well, old pal, I think we're in big trouble.

3-15 EXT. BYSS SPACEPORT

Sound: A ship zooms by. A low humming (this time of machinery), coming close.

SHUG: You sure this is a good idea, Salla?

SALLA: No, it's a lousy idea, Ninx. But we've gotta get back to the *Millennium Falcon*. And the *Falcon's* hidden inside Lo Khan's ship. The only way there is through the spacedock.

SHUG: Yeah, but there's one of those giant hunter-killer droids wandering around the spacedock. Like it's looking for something.

SALLA: It IS. Look at that bright light--it keeps focusing on different ships.

SHUG: Yeah, I've seen those before. That's a sensory enhanced detection array. It'll see right through the hull of a ship and detect anything inside. And it's looking this way!

SALLA: Duck!!

SHUG: (long pause) Did it see us?

SALLA: I don't think so. Come on, we'd better get to Lo Khan's ship before--

SHUG: Too late...that hunter-killer droid just zeroed in on the *Hyperspace Marauder*.

SALLA: We've got to make a break for it.

PROBOT: (a steely, mechanical voice) *Judgment 12-X7* to Security Command. Freighter *Hyperspace Marauder*, docking permit X7A97HM, cargo scan in progress. Anomaly-- detecting second vessel concealed within. Please confirm identification of Priority One quarry.

SECURITY COMMAND: (over intercom) Priority One Quarry: Corellian YT-1300 transport. Cargo capacity 100 metric tons. Vessel designation: *Millennium Falcon*.

PROBOT: Identification confirmed. Sensor analysis: Increased energy readings in aft quadrant. Location: Engines. Conclusion: Target ship preparing to--

Sound: The Millennium Falcon blasts out of the Hyperspace Marauder's cargo bay, passing the probot.

3-16 INT. MILLENNIUM FALCON COCKPIT

SHUG: This is the stupidest thing we've ever done, Salla.

SALLA: Not as stupid as sitting around and waiting to get arrested, Ninx.

PROBOT: (over intercom) *Judgment 12-X7* to Security Command. Apprehension and detainment of target ship in progress.

SALLA: He's closing on us fast, Ninx. Hit him, hit him--!

Sound: The Falcon opens fire on the probot.

DARK EMPIRE TRILOGY

SHUG: No good. That H-K's got some new kind of deflectors. Th-The *Falcon's* missiles are bouncing off his shields like pebbles!

Sound: The opening of a giant door from far away, and the roar of--

SALLA: We're caught in a tractor beam! Increase power!

SHUG: No good, we're being drawn in.

SALLA: Looks like Han and Leia will have to take care of business without us.

SHUG: Not if I can help it...

3-17 INT. EMPEROR'S SUITE

EMPEROR: Welcome to my inner sanctum, my dear.

LEIA: I'd be more comfortable if you took this restraining device off me.

EMPEROR: Hmm. Very well. Sentinel, release her.

Sound: The Sentinel removes the restraining device from Leia.

LEIA: (sighs with relief)

EMPEROR: Now leave us. I have secrets that can only be shared with a Jedi.

SENTINEL: Yes, my lord.

Sound: The door closes behind the Sentinel.

EMPEROR: Now, we may talk.... privately.

LEIA: I have nothing to say to you.

TOM VEITCH & JOHN WHITMAN

EMPEROR: My brave little warrior. Just like your brother. Oh, yes. He is brave, despite what you think. In fact, he has been sabotaging my efforts. He can hide nothing from me.

LEIA: Luke? S-sabotaging? But why.....?

EMPEROR: Why do I allow him to continue? It suits my purpose. Everything is as I foresaw it. And everything works according to my plan. In the end, he is insignificant.

LEIA: My brother is a great Jedi!!

EMPEROR: Yessss...a great Jedi. But YOU are destined to be far greater. (suddenly moans, then weaker:) Forgive me, my dear. I am not well. The time of my transference approaches.

LEIA: “Transference?” Then.... it’s true. You *are* using clones.

EMPEROR: Soon this body will no longer be able to contain my great power. But, forgive the ramblings of an old man. Come here, little Jedi. I want to show you something.

Sound: A small humming.

LEIA: That small cube? Glowing with inner light?

EMPEROR: Yes. This is the Jedi Holocron, given to me many years ago by a very old Jedi, before his...(amused) untimely departure.

LEIA: It’s...beautiful.

EMPEROR: Go ahead, my daughter. Don’t be afraid. Take it.

Sound: The hum increases as Leia takes the Holocron.

LEIA: Something about it...so wondrous.... so familiar...

DARK EMPIRE TRILOGY

EMPEROR: Yes. It knows you are a Jedi.

Sound: The hum crests.

LEIA: An image...springing from the cube...it's...magical.

EMPEROR: Nothing magical about it, my dear. Primitive hologram technology. The old Jedi you see in the image was part of a group that lived in the Adega system, 600 years ago. They took it upon themselves to make a record of Jedi history and teachings, for the Jedi of the future. Like yourself.

BODO: (a gravelly, unmistakably alien voice) Jedi...hear the words of Bodo Baas. Some among us have sought to conquer the Dark Side by learning its secrets. Three to my knowledge, three have tried this. Perished, every one of them perished. The first was Ulic Qel-Droma, who fell into the Dark Side in the time--

LEIA: (outraged) This is a Jedi teaching device!! You have no right to this!

EMPEROR: Oh, but I do. Aren't I the master of all the Jedi? Your own father was my apprentice.

LEIA: My father *died* because of you!!! And now my brother-- (catches herself) my brother is in grave danger.

EMPEROR: Your foolish brother has caused me great harm. Look at me!! I am only a helpless old man. Soon, like all great Jedi, like your own father, I will drop this fragile flesh. Please, help a dying old man into his bed...

LEIA: Into your grave!

EMPEROR: So rude. Very well, I will help myself. (lowers himself with effort into a floating bed.) There. I must lay here a while. Stay with me. Soon you will see what very few have seen. The Dark Side has given me a wonderful power--the

TOM VEITCH & JOHN WHITMAN

power to enter one of my clones. Indeed, I can enter *anyone*...I can overshadow the soul that dwells therein. I can even enter...your CHILD.

LEIA: My children?! My children are hidden from you!

EMPEROR: Your first two, yes...but not the one now stirring in your womb.

LEIA: (shocked whisper)...you know?

EMPEROR: Yessss, little Jedi. And this child belongs to ME.

LEIA: NEVER!!!

EMPEROR: Wait, you'll tip the bed--! AGGHH!!!!

Sound: Leia flings the bed over, tumbling the Emperor onto the ground.

EMPEROR: (gasping in pain) My leg...is broken...

LEIA: It was a mistake to leave yourself so helpless lying there on your bed, old man!! Now to find Han and get out of here!

Sound: Leia runs off. The door opens and closes...and the Emperor's gasping becomes laughter.

EMPEROR: I have tested her, and it is exactly as I have foreseen. She has the Skywalker anger. Like her brother, like her father. Let her flee, for now. She will fall to the Dark Side soon enough-----eh? What's this? My Holocron! SHE TOOK MY HOLOCRON!!!! (For the first time ever, the Emperor gets ANGRY.) GUARRRRRDS!!!!

3-18 INT. THRONE ROOM

Sound: Door opens.

DARK EMPIRE TRILOGY

CAPTAIN: Guards are posted outside the cell of the space pirate and the Wookiee, Lord Skywalker, and I've brought the two droids, as you've commanded.

LUKE: Very well, Captain. Anything else, Captain?

CAPTAIN: There was, um, one other thing, my Lord. Security reports that the Master Control signal has been tampered with...by someone in the command section. As a result, we have lost three World Devastators.

LUKE: Hmm, is that so? Have you informed the Emperor of this?

CAPTAIN: I was about to, my Lord, but...

LUKE: (with a Force echo in his voice) You were saying.....? Commander?

CAPTAIN: I was about to, Lord Skywalker, but...I forgot, my Lord. It's very strange.

LUKE: (echoing) Then why don't you keep this information to yourself, Captain. And if anyone else knows, send them to me at once.

CAPTAIN: Yes, sir. Keep it to myself, sir.

LUKE: Very well. Dismissed. (waits for the Captain to leave)
Now, Threepio--

THREEPIO: Yes, sir?

LUKE: (talking fast) Unhook Artoo from that tech station and bring him over here!

THREEPIO: Yes, sir, Master Luke.

TOM VEITCH & JOHN WHITMAN

ARTOO: BLEEPS IN SURPRISE AS HE IS UNHOOKED.

LUKE: I know, Artoo. But you'll have to trust me. I'll restore your main programming.... someday. Right now, I need all the space in your memory banks for these plans of--

LEIA: Luke!

THREEPIO: Princess Leia! Master Luke, it's Princess Leia! The Emperor let her go!

LUKE: Hello, Leia. I've been expecting you.

THREEPIO: Oh, Princess, tell Master Luke to be careful. He's putting far too much data in Artoo's memory. He's only a simple astromech droid, you know.

ARTOO: BEEPS "WANNA BET?"

LUKE: You freed yourself from the Emperor, Leia. You did well. The Force is strong in you.

LEIA: Luke.... please. The Dark Side is all around us. Get Han. We're leaving. I...I want you to come with us.

LUKE: Leia, you've got the wrong idea. Everything's fine! I know what I'm doing. Leia, it's good that you came to Byss. Your Jedi power, added to my own, has helped me break the grip of the Dark Side.

LEIA: I'm not so sure. I see something happening. I sense great danger for you.... and us. The Emperor is toying with you, Luke.

LUKE: Yes, he may think so, but look--here's Artoo. I've hidden the Master Control code in his circuits. The Emperor's priority battle plans!

ARTOO: WHISTLES WITH EXCITEMENT.

DARK EMPIRE TRILOGY

LEIA: How...how can I believe you?

LUKE: Come on. I'll take you to Han and Chewie. And then we'll ALL return to Pinnacle Base--together!!

Music: The Imperial Theme rises, and then fades to silence.

TAPE TWO / SIDE TWO

4-1 INT. BYSS DUNGEON CELL

Music: The short piece from TESB again, then back to the dripping dungeon.

CHEWBACCA: GRUNTS WITH EFFORT.

HAN: Listen furface -- if you'd let me cut off some of that rug you're wearing, we could make ourselves a rope and get out of here a lot quicker.

CHEWBACCA: COMPLAINS.

HAN: Oh come on, I ain't *that* heavy! Besides, I'm the one who has to squeeze through this little window and drop twelve stories. (straining) If I can get this bar loose, that is...Push me up a little higher!

Sound: The humming of the giant probot.

HAN: Uh oh, hold it pal. I don't think this is gonna work. There's a hunter-killer droid spying on us. Let me down! He's charging up his cannons!

CHEWBACCA: GROWLS AS HE LETS HAN DOWN.

TOM VEITCH & JOHN WHITMAN

Sound: The probot fires, blowing off the cell wall!

HAN: (coughing) You okay, Chewie? If these Imperials are trying to kill us, they're sure going about it the hard way. All they did was blow a big hole in the wall of our cell.

CHEWBACCA: SNARLS IN ANGER.

HAN: Yeah, yeah, I see it. That droid's coming closer, but it's stopped firing and it's...

Sound: A door opening and a ramp lowering.

HAN: ...it's extending its gangplank? What kind of a hunter-killer droid is that??

SALLA: My kind, Solo.

HAN: Salla! Am I glad to see you -- Hey, you almost got us killed!

SALLA: You're free, aren't you? That's two you owe your old girlfriend. Now come on!

Sound: Inside of droid is closer.

HAN: How'd you get hold of a hunter-killer droid?

SALLA: It got hold of us first. But once it detained us, it didn't figure on a genius mechanic like Ninx. He's up inside the mainframe, hotwiring this thing's computer brain. It'll do backflips if we want it to. Now come on--the *Falcon's* right inside. Planet security knows we stole one of their droids.

CHEWBACCA: SUGGESTS THEY GET GOING.

HAN: Hold it, Chewie, to heck with the *Falcon*! We're not leaving until we find Leia!

DARK EMPIRE TRILOGY

SALLA: But there's no time!

THREEPIO: (in the distance) Wait for us! Wait for us!

SALLA: Somebody's following through the hole we blasted.

THREEPIO: Wait! Oh, it'd be just like them to leave us--

LEIA: Talk less and run faster, Threepio!

ARTOO: BEEPS OUT A FEW WORDS.

THREEPIO: That's easy for you to say. You're on wheels!

HAN: Don't fire, Salla--it's Leia! And Threepio! There's Artoo, and there's...

LUKE: Han!

HAN: (tone suddenly turns ugly) ... the *traitor*. Give me that blaster, Salla. (takes blaster) Okay, farmboy, here's where I even the score!!

LEIA: Han, STOP!! It's over!!

HAN: Get out of my way, Leia!!! The Dark Side's got him! He's liable to do anything!

LEIA: No, Han. We're all leaving. Together. Luke has the code we need to stop the Devastators.

LUKE: Han, listen to Leia. If what I'm doing succeeds, the Empire will be finished forever!

HAN: Okay. If you're telling the truth, why don't we take out the Emperor *right now*, as long as we're in town?

Sound: A whistling of an approaching vehicle.

CHEWBACCA: CRIES OUT AN ALERT.

TOM VEITCH & JOHN WHITMAN

Sound: Far-off firing.

SALLA: It's a security patrol. Cut the gab and move it!!

THREEPIO: Ohh, wait for me!!

HAN: Chewie, grab Goldenrod and yank him in. I'm closing the door.

THREEPIO: No one ever cares what happens to me. Oh my....

Sound: Door closes.

SCENE 4-2 INT. HUNTER-KILLER PROBOT

CHEWBACCA: GROWLS OUT AN OBSCENITY.

THREEPIO: Chewbacca! Such language! I didn't think there was a translation for that!

HAN: Okay, they're in, they're in! And there's my beautiful ship. I was afraid I'd never see you again.

SALLA: There's Ninx, up on that walkway.

SHUG: Rev up the *Falcon*! I've programmed the H-K's targeting computer to shoot up everything using Imperial codes! But there's a whole fleet coming down on us.

Sound: Falcon's engines warm up.

SALLA: Okay, Han, Ninx is on board! Let's blast out of here!

HAN: Way ahead of you, Salla, sweetheart!

Sound: Falcon's engines blast off.

DARK EMPIRE TRILOGY

SCENE 4-3 INT. MILLENNIUM FALCON COCKPIT

HAN: Okay, we're clear of the H-K. Shields up, Chewie.

Sound: Close-range blaster fire on the Falcon.

LEIA: Han, you sure have a habit of collecting unwanted attention.

HAN: These security ships are no problem, sweetheart. The *Falcon*'ll lose 'em on one thruster.

THREEPIO: But sir, what about the planetary shield? We'll be smashed up against it!

HAN: I'm on that too. Leia, calculate the jump to hyperspace from our present coordinates.

CHEWBACCA: GROWLS IN SURPRISE.

LEIA: But Han, we're still in the planet's atmosphere! If we make the jump now--

HAN: I know, I know, we're gonna risk high-atmosphere burnup. But unless your pretty smile can open up that shield, it's our only hope!

LEIA: I hope you know what you're doing...

HAN: Chewie, distance to the shield perimeter?

CHEWBACCA: GRUMBLES IN REPLY.

THREEPIO: Two kilometers? We'll never make it! 1.5 kilometers....

HAN: Navicomputer's finished its calculations--

TOM VEITCH & JOHN WHITMAN

THREEPIO: One kilometer---

HAN: Disengaging sublight engines--

THREEPIO: Half a kilometer---

HAN: We're going hyper--

THREEPIO: We're doomed!!

HAN: NOW!!!

Sound: The Falcon screams into hyperspace...and everything suddenly goes down several degrees in pitch.

HAN: We're past the energy shield. Weeee mmmaddeeee
ittttt.....

LEIA: Mmmaddee iittttt??? Wwwwwhhhhhaattt'ssss
wrrroonnggg wittthh ussss?????

HAN: Lleeeggsssss feeellll likkkeee chhhhhuurrnninnggg
innnn watterrrrr.....

CHEWBACCA: RRROOARRSS VERRYYY
SLOOWWWLLYYYY.

ARTOO: BEEEEPPPSS VERRYYY
SLOOWWWLLLLYYYYYY.

SALLA: Haaaannnnddsssss arrreeee
dddiisapppearrinnnggg.....

HAN: Weee"reee toooo cloooseeee toooo tthhhee
woorrrmmhooolllee effecttt,, ttttrriigggerreddd byyy
thhhee pllannnett"ssss maggnettüiccc fiieeelldddd.....

LUKE: Ooouurr attoommmsss arreeee beeeinnnggg
sccattterreddd acccrooss hyppeerrspacceeee.....

DARK EMPIRE TRILOGY

LEIA: Navvviiicccommmputtterr'r'sss (unintelligable)

SALLA: Ooohhhh noooooooooo (unintelligable)

LUKE: Cuuttt innnn yyuurrr suubbbliighhhttt
ennggginness!!

HAN: Arrreee youuuu crazzzzyy? Ifffff IIIIII cuutttt innnn
thhheeee subbbliighhtttss, wwwwee'llll dropppp outttt off
hyyperrrrspaccceeee,,, annnnddd weeee donnn'tt
evvveennn knnnowww whhheerreeeee wweeee arrreeee!
Yyyyyouuuu wannntttt tooooo dropppp righhhttt
innnttooouooo aaa plannnnettttarrryyy coorrreeee???

LEIA: Ttttrrrruustttt himmmmm,, Haaannnn.....

HAN: Alll righhhttt.....buutttt evvverryy timmeee
Lukkkkee'sss innnn troubblee, itt'sss myyyy shipp
tattttt getttssss bloowwnn toooo pieceessss.....

Sound: The hyperdrive cuts out, and things go back to normal.

LEIA: There. We're out.

HAN: Yeah. We're back in normal space.

THREEPIO: Thank goodness. I thought my servomotors
were going to fall right off!

HAN: Hey, Luke, how'd you know we were gonna be okay?

LUKE: I told you, Han--I can discover things you'll never
imagine. With the Force.

HAN: With the Dark Side, you mean.

LEIA: Han, that's not fair. Luke has provided us with
everything the Rebels need to beat those World Devastators.
It's all stored in Artoo's memory banks.

TOM VEITCH & JOHN WHITMAN

ARTOO: BEEPS “SHE’S RIGHT!”

LUKE: Take Artoo and plug him into your hyperspace comm system. He’ll help you beam interference codes to the World Devastators, even while you’re in hyperspace.

HAN: That’s great. Why don’t you show us? Or maybe you’ve got a little surprise planned?

LUKE: I can understand why you still don’t trust me, Han. But now that all of you are safely away from Byss, I have other work to do.

Sound: The Force rises....

LUKE: If I fail in the task I must now accomplish, the Alliance must be prepared to fight its greatest battle.

HAN: What do you mean, “all of us are safely away”? Aren’t you too?

LUKE: No.

HAN: What are you talking about?

LUKE: Very simple. (Voice becomes immaterial and fades out) I’m on Byss...

SALLA: He’s gone! How?

LEIA: He must have used a Dark Side power to project a double of himself, Salla. He knew I’d never willingly leave him on Byss.

HAN: I knew it. He’s STILL a traitor!

LEIA: Han, he did it to save us!

HAN: I don’t care what you say, Leia. I’m starting to feel sorry I ever heard the name Luke--

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SCENE 4-4 INT. CLONING CHAMBER

EMPEROR: -- Skywalker? I sense your presence.

LUKE: Yes. I am here.

EMPEROR: How did you get into my cloning chamber?
This laboratory is sealed! My moment of transition is close....
no one is allowed in here no--

Sound: Luke's lightsaber ignites.

LUKE: I have come to prevent that transition.

EMPEROR: ...So you have. Using powers I have given you.
Let me offer you a bargain, my friend. I will kill you now, or
you can permit me to move into *your* body. Then you and I
will rule the Universe as one.

LUKE: I've learned many of your secrets, your Majesty.
Your power over me is broken. When I destroy your clones,
your reign will be at its end!!

EMPEROR: Hmm....is it so? Very well...then I must die!!!
(LAUGHS. THE LAUGHTER ECHOES AS HIS BODY
FADES OUT OF HIS CLOTHING.)

LUKE: He's vanished!

EMPEROR: (echoing) Vanished, Skywalker? I exist as
energy, remember? I am all around you. Here--and here! And
here, and HERE!

LUKE: He's trying to enter one of the clones! Must destroy
them all!

*Sound: Lightsaber slashes through glass, and water floods as the bodies
thump to the floor.*

TOM VEITCH & JOHN WHITMAN

LUKE: Cut through the cloning chambers! Slash these mindless clones to bits!!

Sound: Screaming as each of Palpatine's mindless clones die.

EMPEROR: Too late, Skywalker. Too late.

(Note: Although the Emperor is in a young body now, his soul is still as old and corrupt as ever--and so is his voice.)

EMPEROR: Yes. You missed *one* clone. And one is all I need, for now. Look at me! I am YOUNG again!! I will live FOREVER!!!

LUKE: Not if I can help it! (slashes at the Emperor, who dodges the attack)

EMPEROR: (laughs) Too slow, Skywalker!

LUKE: (lunges at Palpatine again, screaming)

EMPEROR: Did you think you could conquer me by coming here to Byss--to the very heart of the Dark Side?

LUKE: You forget -- I am a Jedi Master now. And I KNOW something about the Dark Side!

Sound: Luke unleashes his OWN Force lightning on the Emperor. The old (young) man crashes against the wall.

EMPEROR: You try to use the Force against ME?!? All you've succeeded in doing in hurtling me in reach of my collection of Jedi weapons! As for your Dark Side knowledge--

Sound: The Emperor grabs a lightsaber from the wall and ignites it.

EMPEROR: Does it tell you how many other so-called "Jedi Masters" failed to vanquish me? Does your knowledge

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tell you that I have already beaten you?! Poor Jedi. Your kind will soon be extinct. And how fitting that one of their precious lightsabers brings an end to the Jedi delusion!!

Sound: Luke lunges. The two clash sabers, and duel viciously.

EMPEROR: What's the matter, Skywalker? Getting tired? Not quite as young as you were when you fought your father!

LUKE: (breathing hard) You have filled the galaxy with your darkness. But I have seen what my father could not see. I have seen that ultimately, the Dark Side will FAIL!!

EMPEROR: Jedi FOOL! In spite of the stories you tell yourself, I am the stronger! Did I not warn you?!? Now, take the consequences of your failure, like your father before you!!

Sound: Furious dueling--but the Emperor gets the better of Luke, forcing the elder Jedi's lightsaber out of his hands. Both lightsabers deactivate as Luke lands on his rear, Palpatine's blade at his neck.

EMPEROR: No, Skywalker. It is not your time to die. It is your time to submit. The Dark Side will break you. Now get up. We are going to find your sister. I want my Holocron, and I want your sister's child! I am going to crush the Rebellion, *once and for all!!!*

SCENE 4-5 INT. MILLENNIUM FALCON

LEIA: Can the *Millennium Falcon* go any faster, Han? I'm worried about the battle on Calamari.

HAN: We're doing twice the speed of light now! Don't worry Leia, once we get Artoo plugged in, his transmission'll reach Lando long before we arrive.

ARTOO: BEEPS AND WHISTLES.

TOM VEITCH & JOHN WHITMAN

THREEPIO: Please be careful, sir! Artoo says they burned out his differential regulators when they erased his memory banks!

HAN: I know. Why do you think we're having so much trouble accessing the battle codes Luke hid in his subsystems?

Sound: Mechanical tinkering.

HAN: There. Okay, Chewie, ready on this end. Hope this works....

THREEPIO: But sir, I think--

HAN: (snaps) Listen Professor, if you want to do something useful, why don't you--

LEIA: Why don't you come with me, Threepio? (whispers) Han hates being wrong about people. And he was wrong about Luke. He's in a grumpy mood.

THREEPIO: I should say so.

LEIA: Come here. I'll plug you into the hyperspace transponder, so you can monitor transmissions for us. Luke says the information he stored in Artoo will paralyze the Devastator's command computers. I want you to tell me if they start beaming distress calls to Byss.

THREEPIO: Of course, Princess Leia. The Imperial network operates on a binary code I am quite familiar with. I'm *so* glad somebody appreciates my talents!

LEIA: There. You're all hooked up.

THREEPIO: I've picked up a binary code transmission from Calamari. Translating... Your Highness--oh my word!! Oh hurry, hurry!! They're being slaughtered!!!

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SCENE 4-6 EXT. MON CALAMARI BATTLEFIELD

GAMMACK: Pull back, pull back!!! We need air support!!

CALAMARIAN SOLDIER: (over intercom) We're hit!
World Devastators coming right for us!!! AGGHH!!!!

CALAMARIAN SOLDIER TWO: (over intercom) Get
that evac unit over here!!! Gammack, all aircraft have been
destroyed! All we have left are these ocean-going attack
boats!!

GAMMACK: Well, pull them back! Keep them out from
under those World Devastators, or they'll get sucked up
along with the rest of this sector!!!

REBEL SOLDIER: (over intercom) Captain Gammack,
scanners indicate that the World Devastators have gathered
from all areas of Calamari, and are converging on our
location! We've got SIX of them bearing down on us!!
LOOKS LIKE THIS IS IT!!

GAMMACK: Get those assault boats into attack formation!
General Calrissian wants our commando teams ready to
board those planet-smashers at a moment's notice!!

REBEL SOLDIER: (over intercom) But that's a suicide
mission!!

GAMMACK: Maybe, but Lando thinks Commander
Skywalker is doing something to sabotage those World
Devastators! I don't know what it could be...

REBEL SOLDIER: (over intercom) I don't believe it!

GAMMACK: Something strange is happening... the
Devastators just stopped! They're just sitting there, like
somebody's switched them off! All right, men---let's go!!

TOM VEITCH & JOHN WHITMAN

SCENE 4-7 INT. WORLD DEVASTATOR SILENCER
SEVEN BRIDGE

Sound: Alarm going off.

KLEV: What's going on?

CREWMAN: Commander Klev, we're being jammed by command codes coming over the Emperor's secure hyperspace channel!

KLEV: Then bypass the Master Control computer!

CREWMAN: We're trying, sir! But the system was designed to prevent tampering!!

KLEV: This is ridiculous! We're being paralyzed by our own command center!! (muffled explosion) What was THAT?!?

CREWMAN: The Calamari have launched a counter-assault against us! Our stormtroopers are attempting to repel boarders! There is one option available to us, Commander. We are able to restore power to the onboard factories.

KLEV: Well then *do it!* If we're going to sit here like a dead moon, we might as well give them a good fight!

SCENE 4-8 INT. MILLENNIUM FALCON COCKPIT

HAN: Okay, the *Falcon's* exiting hyperspace.

Sound: You heard what Han said. ;)

HAN: And there's Calamari, dead ahead.

LEIA: Entering the upper atmosphere. Careful, Han--we're coming in right on top of the battle.

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HAN: Yeah, what's going on? That World Devastator's still got it's furnace blasting! I thought those codes were supposed to shut down the Devastators. I guess your brother decided to pull a fast one on us after all.

LEIA: Han, use your eyes! It's paralyzed! Obviously the Imperial engineers figured out how to keep the recycling factories working.

ARTOO: WHISTLES FOR ATTENTION.

THREEPIO: Sir, if I may say--

HAN: Okay, your Worship, if that's true, what's to stop them from getting the whole thing operational?

THREEPIO: Sir? Sir, please listen---

HAN: Threepio, I thought I told you to SHUT UP!!

THREEPIO: It's Artoo, sir! He says he's created a new command code that will make the Devastators do anything he wants! Frankly, sir, I think---

HAN: Well, why didn't you say so!! It's worth a try--Luke's big plan sure didn't help much.

LEIA: Han, I don't know why you're still so down on Luke. He's taking a great risk for the Alliance.

HAN: Yeah, yeah. Let's see if this chirping three-legged bolt bucket can do any better.

ARTOO: BLATTS.

THREEPIO: Actually, sir, I believe Artoo is having delusions of grandeur.

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HAN: He ain't the only one. Okay, he's plugged in. Chewie, radio those commando teams to get 'em clear of the Devastators. They've got three minutes.

CHEWBACCA: BEGINS GROWLING INTO THE INTERCOM.

SCENE 4-9 EXT. MON CALAMARI BATTLEFIELD

GAMMACK: We copy, *Millennium Falcon*! All teams, back to the boats!! Clear off this world-smasher!!

REBEL SOLDIER: (over intercom) But we just fought off a whole platoon of stormtroopers to get on it!

GAMMACK: Move it, soldier!! If my guess is right, this monster's about to---

SCENE 4-10 INT. SILENCER SEVEN BRIDGE

CREWMAN: --crash, Commander Klev! We've lost all control of this World Devastator! We're being steered directly towards *Silencer Four*!!!

KLEV: Don't just stand there, you idiot, do something!! DO SOMETHING!!!

Sound: Deafening explosion as the Devastator hits its sister---and is blown apart!!!

SCENE 4-11 INT. MILLENNIUM FALCON COCKPIT

THREEPIO: (ecstatic) Artoo, you've done it!! Thank the Maker!!! I KNEW you could do it!! You've saved the day!!

ARTOO: "IT WEREN'T NOTHING. AND BY THE WAY--\$#^#%\$&@!!!!"

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THREEPIO: OH!! I've never been so insulted in all my life!! And to think it was I who told them about your grand plan! Too bad you've destroyed all the Devastators--I'd like to feed you to them to be recycled!!

LANDO: (over intercom) *Millennium Falcon!*

HAN: Lando, you ol' womp rat!

LANDO: Good work, Han. Those World Devastators have destroyed each other. WE WON!!! HA HAA!!!!

SCENE 4-12 INT. COUNCIL CHAMBER - PINNACLE
BASE - A FEW DAYS LATER...

HAN: Uh, Leia...uh.... b-before the Council meeting begins, I-I'd just like to say... I mean, I wanted to tell you since we returned to Pinnacle Base...I'm sorry for what I said. I-I guess I'll never figure old Luke out.

LEIA: (gently) Sometimes the actions of a Jedi make no sense toward ordinary men. Luke is sacrificing his life for us, Han...for our three children.

HAN: Yeah, well...(classic double take) Three?? Did you say... *three* children?!? (excited) You mean.....?

LEIA: (joyous) Yes, Han, I'm pregnant! I can feel the baby stirring.... it will be strong with the Force.

HAN: (chuckles) Pregnant again. Who woulda thought? Me, the father of three Jedi. I guess an "ordinary" guy can do something right.

Sound: Door opens.

LEIA: Shh. Here come Mon Mothma and Admiral Ackbar.

TOM VEITCH & JOHN WHITMAN

MON MOTHMA: Ladies and gentlemen, thank you for coming to this council of war.

ACKBAR: Thanks to your efforts, the Battle of Calamari has been won.

MON MOTHMA: But according to the plans that Artoo has brought us, Calamari was but a small part of the Emperor's overall scheme. The deep core systems have become inviolable fortresses.

ACKBAR: The Imperial fleet has reaffirmed its allegiance to the Emperor. Now, the Emperor plans to expand his total area of dominance in stages. He will launch a series of wave-assaults on all worlds in proximity to the Galactic Core. Moving out from the center, he will not rest until the entire galaxy falls under the sway of the Dark Side.

MON MOTHMA: Our only hope lies in Commander Skywalker's attempts to sabotage the Emperor's plans. In the meantime, I have assigned teams to analyze all our possible responses. We'll meet again tomorrow. I want you all rested, and ready to act.

SCENE 4-13 INT. HAN AND LEIA'S QUARTERS

LEIA: See you later, Han.

Sound: Door opens.

HAN: Okay, Leia. Just got to check that shipment of Incom GBK's for the X-Wings, and I'll be back. Try and get some rest.

Sound: Door closes.

LEIA: "Rest." That's the last thing on my mind. What could be happening to Luke? Is he safe? Oh--what's this in my

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pocket? The device I stole from the Emperor! I'd forgotten about it!

Sound: The hum begins as she grabs hold of the Holocron.

LEIA: What a strange thing. So old, constructed by a long-lost science. What did the Emperor call it? The "Holocron"...

Sound: The hum rises to a wail...

LEIA: Wh---what's happening? M-My room--Pinnacle Base--it's all fading!

BODO: Greeting, Jedi. I am Bodo Baas.

LEIA: You. You're the image I saw in the Holocron. But you're no longer an image--you're real! Where am I?

BODO: Everywhere. Nowhere. You are with the Force.

LEIA: Bodo Baas, am I.... inside the Holocron?

BODO: No. The Holocron is a device. It helps us to reach each other. It is the Force which truly brings us together.

LEIA: And you.... are you real? I mean...didn't you die, a long time ago?

BODO: Past history and present action are one. The Force surrounds all time, all doing. Bodo Baas is with the Force, that is certain.

LEIA: Can you tell me what will become of Luke?

BODO: For you, Bodo Baas will speak a prophecy written 1,000 years before your time, by my own master:

"A brother and sister, born to walk the sky.
But reckless brother falls into Dark Side's eye.
Jedi sister carries hope for future in her womb.

TOM VEITCH & JOHN WHITMAN

Only she can save her brother from a certain doom.

A Jedi killer wants to tame her.
Now the Dark Side comes to claim her.
She must join with her brother to combat this thief,
Before the Jedi come to grief.”

Sound: The hum fades as the Holocron deactivates.

LEIA: “Join with my brother”? “Join with my brother”??

HAN: Leia? Leia, wake up.

LEIA: Huhh? Han...where’s Bodo Baas?

HAN: Bodo who? You’ve been dreaming, Leia.

LEIA: It wasn’t a dream. It was the Holocron--

HAN: Whatever, come on, we gotta go!

LEIA: What’s wrong?

HAN: We got company. Serious company.

SCENE 4-14 INT. COUNCIL CHAMBER

FEMALE REBEL PILOT: (over intercom) We count three ships--repeat, three ships--approaching Pinnacle Base!

CAPTAIN SNUNB: (over intercom) Confirm that. Scanners indicate two *Imperial*-class Destroyers. The third is--
-!!!!

FEMALE REBEL PILOT: ENORMOUS!! Measures 10 miles across!!!

LEIA: (rushing in) Mon Mothma, what’s happening?

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MON MOTHMA: Good. You and Han have arrived. Three Imperial ships just came out of hyperspace right over the planet. Two Star Destroyers, and..... well, it can only be the Emperor's flagship.

Sound: Holographic comm system comes on.

HAN: A hologram. Signal's cut across all our frequencies. We're getting the same image on every channel.

LEIA: It's the Emperor! But he's...grown young!

EMPEROR: (over holocomm) Leaders of the Rebel Alliance. I have no quarrel with you. Give me the woman Jedi, sister of Skywalker, and return the precious object she stole from me.

HAN: He's gotta be kidding!

MON MOTHMA: Why should we comply with your demands?

EMPEROR: A shuttle is waiting. Send her to my ship, and I will discuss a truce with the Alliance.

Sound: Shocked gasps from all over the chamber.

HAN: I vote we blast him with everything we've got!!! That's what Luke would want!

LEIA: No. I have to go to them. I HAVE to.

HAN: It's too dangerous! There comes a point where you have to choose between this Force business and your own good common sense!

LEIA: You're right, Han. There does. And I have.

HAN: Leia, I won't let you go!! Not with our child!!!

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LEIA: (quietly insistent) You *will* let me, Han.

HAN: I—

Sound: Leia storms out of the room before he can finish.

HAN: ... all right.

MON MOTHMA: You look dazed, General Solo. Almost like Leia used a Jedi mind trick on you.

HAN: No, no mind tricks. I'm just surprised that with all the women in the galaxy, I married the only one as stubborn as I am.

MON MOTHMA: And as brave, General Solo. Do you still think we should prepare our forces for an all-out attack?

HAN: No. It's taken me long enough, but I just realized that whatever's going on here, it has nothing to do with blasters or fighter pilots. It's up to the Jedi now.

SCENE 4-15 INT. EMPEROR'S FLAGSHIP - HANGAR

Sound: A shuttle lands inside the hangar.

IMPERIAL OFFICER: Inform the Emperor the shuttle has landed. The Jedi woman is approaching his chambers.

SCENE 4-16 INT. EMPEROR'S FLAGSHIP - THRONE ROOM

Sound: Same as in the Emperor's throne room on Byss, except with added ship hum.

EMPEROR: Soon, my young apprentice, your sister will be mine.

LUKE: (back to the Vader-like voice) Yes, my master.

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Sound: Footsteps coming up.

EMPEROR: Good, Princess Leia. You have understood.

LEIA: I am here.

EMPEROR: You may leave us, guards.

Sound: The guards leave, and the door closes.

EMPEROR: Now, my daughter, the time for subtlety is over. Where is my Holocron?

LEIA: I don't have it. I've come for my brother. Luke, are you all right?

EMPEROR: He will not answer you, unless I command him.

LEIA: He *will* answer me. Luke?

EMPEROR: You still defy me? Perhaps you do not know your own heart in these matters. The child in your womb will be given to me. Is that not so?

LEIA: NO!

EMPEROR: (using Force-voice) You cannot resist. I will raise this child in the power of the Dark Side. The child will become an extension of my will.

LEIA: (weakening under Palpatine's voice) Yes....

EMPEROR: At the appropriate age, I will displace the personality that dwells within, take on its young Jedi body as my own.

LEIA: yes...

TOM VEITCH & JOHN WHITMAN

EMPEROR: Now, if I but touch you...yes...here...the child grows....

Sound: An arc of lightning flies from Leia's abdomen onto Palpatine's hand!

EMPEROR: (shrieks in pain) You tricked me!!

LEIA: You aren't the only one here who understands the power of the Force, "Your Majesty!"

Sound: A lightsaber ignites---Leia's own, handbuilt lightsaber.

LEIA: And if you touch me again, I'll cut off your hand!

EMPEROR: Curse you, Jedi!! No....a curse is not necessary...I have something better for you. Skywalker! I have broken you. Now, prove yourself worthy of serving me!!

Sound: Luke's lightsaber activates.

LUKE: (hate-filled voice) Yes, my master.

EMPEROR: Bring your sister over to the Dark Side. You have the power.

LEIA: (waving her lightsaber in defense) I don't know what he's done to you, Luke, but this time we're really leaving.

LUKE: Leia, put the lightsaber away. I don't want to hurt you.

LEIA: The last thing I'd do is hurt you, Luke. What's happened to you is *not* final!

EMPEROR: (laughs) He cannot hear you, child! To him, you are a ghost! A faint memory of a former life!!

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LEIA: Luke...listen!! (shuts off lightsaber) Luke.....? (near crying) Oh, what have you *done*?!? What's behind his vacant stare??

EMPEROR: Why, nothing, my child. NOTHING.

Sound: We now hear from Luke's POV. The dialogue is all but buried under the whispers of the Dark Side, now deafening and overlapping.

WHISPERS: (the voice of the Emperor) Nothing.... you are nothing...

LUKE: (echoing whisper) Where am I?

WHISPERS: Alone.

LUKE: (echoing whisper) No..... help me...

WHISPERS: There is no one. There is only the Dark Side.

LUKE: I...am.... a Jedi...(moans in pain)

WHISPERS: You are not a Jedi. You are nothing. You have no name.

LUKE: My name...is...Skywalker...(cries out in near-silent agony)

WHISPERS: You...have...NO..... name!!!

LUKE: I...

WHISPERS: Accept the Dark Side. You have no name.

LUKE: (losing to despair) I...have...no..... name...

WHISPERS: You serve the Dark Side.

LUKE: I sss...

TOM VEITCH & JOHN WHITMAN

WHISPERS: Listen to the voices.

LUKE: The voices...

WHISPERS: ...of the Dark Side.

LUKE: (dark voice again) Yes.

WHISPERS: The one law is fear. The one fear is power.
The one power is hate.

LUKE: Hate...

LEIA: (echoing, as if from a far distance) Luke...

WHISPERS: Hate....

LEIA: (using the Force to “amplify” her voice) Luke...clear
your mind...

LUKE: Leia.....?

WHISPERS: The one law is fear...the one fear is power...the
one---

LEIA: Luke, I'm your sister. I need you.

LUKE: My sister...

WHISPERS: You are alone.

LEIA: Luke, listen to my voice. My child.... will be a very
great Jedi -- because *you* will train him. You will train ALL my
children in the ways of the Force.

Sound: The whispers seem to be losing power....

WHISPERS: Do not listen!!

DARK EMPIRE TRILOGY

LUKE: Leia...the Force...I am not alone!!! I AM NEVER ALONE!!!!

Sound: The whispers suddenly STOP.

EMPEROR: (shocked) NO!! This can't be!! NO ONE returns from the Dark Side!! You're mine....

LUKE: (now talking aloud, sobbing) Leia.... help me...I've gone too far...I've found knowledge, all the dark things Father knew so well...the ability to control others, to destroy others if he chose! If *I* chose. Ben warned me, Yoda warned me---But I HAD to do it, Leia!! I had to know what happened to our father! I had to know *why* he chose the Dark Side...

LEIA: And now you know what happened to our father. It's time to come home, Luke.

EMPEROR: Do not listen to her!! Listen to the voice of the Dark Side! Your power is immense!!

LUKE: (new bravery and maturity in his voice) No. The powers of control and destruction weren't the only things I found in the Dark Side, Emperor. I also found great isolation, and sadness. I found fear. These are the feelings my father felt. The feelings you feel, in your moments of darkest triumph.

EMPEROR: (He's hit a nerve) NONSENSE!!! CURSE YOU SKYWALKERS, BOTH OF YOU!!!! I'LL TELL YOU THE TRUTH ABOUT YOUR FATHER---

Sound: The Emperor lashes out with his Force lightning, leveling Luke!

EMPEROR: The "great" Darth Vader was a sick man in an iron mask!!! Yes, that mask inspired terror throughout the galaxy. But the feeble heart within was forever possessed by the impotent side of the Force!! You can be far stronger than he was. Dark Jedi, are you going to let your weak sister get

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the better of you?!? GET UP!! I can give you the power to break her! You will KILL YOUR SISTER, if I demand it!!!

LUKE: NO!!! I made a mistake! I thought I had to save the galaxy alone. All by myself. But the way of the Jedi is *not* a solitary path.

LEIA: (gasps suddenly) The Holocron!! Luke, the Holocron told me to “join with my brother!”

LUKE: (realizing) Yes. The Force binds us. Brings us together. Many people are fighting this war---together!! Our ally IS the Force! Through the strength of the Force, your shroud of evil has been lifted from my mind!

Sound: The Emperor’s own lightsaber activates.

EMPEROR: So be it. Through the power of the Force, you will DIE!!!

Sound: The Emperor lunges at Luke--who activates his own lightsaber and blocks the blow!! A vicious duel ensues between the two. Both grunt and yell as they lash out.

LEIA: Be careful, Luke! The Force is strong.... they’re both moving so fast, I can hardly see them.... I feel waves of power.... the Dark Side and the Light...But...I feel...the Light...is winning!!

Sound: One blow finally lands---and something thuds on the floor as both lightsabers deactivate!

EMPEROR: NNAAAAARRRRGGGHHH!!!! MY HANDD!!! YOU’VE CUT OFF MY HANNDDDD!!!!!!

LUKE: *Now*, “Your Highness,” we will escort you to the Alliance base, where you will surrender the Galaxy to the New Republic!

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EMPEROR: (long pause) Look at you. Don't think I don't know your plan.

Sound: A far-off roar begins in the far distance...the same noise that spirited Luke away from Coruscant.

EMPEROR: The Dark Side has you. You intend to rule the Galaxy in my place. But.... utter imbecile that you are.... you have *still* failed to understand MY POWERRRRR!!!!!!

LEIA: (hearing the noise) What's happening?!

EMPEROR: Watch the viewscreen!! And listen as your friends die!!!!

Sound: The sound becomes louder...and moving lower.

LUKE: He's created another storm!

LEIA: It's descending on Pinnacle Base, consuming all the ships in its path! (rushes to the comm console and activates the comm) Mon Mothma, can you hear me?!

MON MOTHMA: (on intercom, shouting to be heard) Princess Leia, there's an energy storm! It's suddenly taken over the planet!! We have 12 ships lost already!!! All our hands have been lost--we're being wiped out!!!

HAN: (on intercom) LEIA!! LE—

Sound: Ominous static.

LEIA: (tightly controlling her anger) You're going to SLAUGHTER all those people!!

EMPEROR: Yes. Did I not warn you? I've played your Jedi dueling games long enough. Now, you will experience my full potency. I live as energy!! I AM THE DARK SIDE!!!!

TOM VEITCH & JOHN WHITMAN

LUKE: What have you done....? The power you've unleashed.... even you can't control it!

LEIA: But we can, Luke. *We* can do it. That's what the Holocron meant. Let me add my power to yours.

EMPEROR: Yes. Waste your time on stupid Jedi tricks. The storm will crush your Rebel base to dust.

LUKE: (echoing) Leia....

LEIA: (echoing) I'm here, Luke.

LUKE: (echoing) Concentrate...

LEIA: (echoing) I'm trying.

EMPEROR: What are you doing?

LEIA: (echoing) Luke, I *feel* the Force!

EMPEROR: (realizing at long last) NO!!!

LUKE: (echoing) Yes. It's surrounding the Emperor. Cutting him off from all the power he poured into the storm....

EMPEROR: Fools!!! If you destroy me, the Dark Force will crush you as well!!!!

LUKE: (echoing).... trapping him in his own dark hatred!!

EMPEROR: NOO!!! NNNNOOOOOO!!!!!!!

Sound: The energy storm drowns out the Emperor's dying scream...drowns out everything..

SCENE 4-17 INT. COUNCIL CHAMBER

MON MOTHMA: The storm! It's reversed course!

DARK EMPIRE TRILOGY

HAN: It's heading for the Emperor's ship!! (hits intercom frantically) Leia! GET OUT OF THERE!! *LEIA!!!!*

Sound: Groundshaking noise as the storm obliterates the Emperor's flagship...and fades into silence.

MON MOTHMA: Scanners? This is Mon Mothma--report!!

SCANNER OFFICER: No sign of...anything!

HAN: No sign of?! What do you mean?!?

SCANNER OFFICER: Sorry, General Solo. The Emperor's ship, it's...it's just gone.

HAN: (voice about to break) No....oh, no....

THREEPIO: (likewise) Oh, dear. The Princess! Master Luke!!

CHEWBACCA: ROARS IN ANGUISH.

HAN: (hits intercom) LEIA!!!

Sound: Static on the comm channel. A long, breath-holding silence. And then.....

"This is the...(static).....ase, do you copy? (crackle) This is the (buzz)do you copy?"

HAN: Leia.....?

LEIA: (on comm) Perk up, flyboy!!

HAN: Leia!!

LUKE: (on comm) Don't forget about me!

THREEPIO: Master Luke!!

TOM VEITCH & JOHN WHITMAN

SCANNER OFFICER: We've got 'em, sir! A small shuttle just coming into viewscreen!!!

Sound: The Council Chamber explodes with jubilant cheers. Every voice is raised in celebration.

SCENE 4-18 INT. SHUTTLE COCKPIT

LUKE: Clear the way, Pinnacle Base. We're coming home!
(turns off comm)

LEIA: The last of the great storm is fading, Luke. Vanishing into the void.... taking the Emperor with it!

Music: The last minute of the End Theme starts up, quietly at first...

LUKE: One Jedi cannot conquer the galaxy alone. I guess we proved that. But together, we were a Jedi fire that outshone his evil.

LEIA: Two are more powerful than one. Three are more powerful than two.

LUKE: What??

LEIA: I felt another join us, Luke. My third child. He's going to be a *very* great Jedi.

LUKE: Your child? (happiest we've heard him) This is the beginning, Leia. I feel it. *Great* things are coming!! The Jedi Knights WILL rise again!!!

Music: End Theme hits full volume, on through the closing credits.

THE END

DARK EMPIRE TRILOGY

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Luke Skywalker-----	John Cygan
Princess Leia Organa-Solo	
Mon Mothma-----	Ann Patricio
Han Solo-----	Joe Hacker
Lando Calrissian-----	Billy Dee Williams
See-Threepio-----	Jim Ward
Artoo-Detoo-----	Himself
Chewbacca-----	Himself
Emperor Palpatine-----	Nick Jameson
Admiral Ackbar-----	Andy Cowen
Salla Zend	
Vima Da-Boda-----	Glynnis Talken
Imperial Officer-----	Rex Smith

Published by Dark Horse Comics, Inc.

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Engineered by John Kovarek

Sound effects by Ben Burtt

TOM VEITCH & JOHN WHITMAN

Music composed by John Williams. Performed by the
London Symphony Orchestra.

Recorded at West Valley Studios, Chatsworth, California.

Mixed and Mastered at Skywalker Sound, Modesto,
California.

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Presented by Highbridge Audio.

STAR WARS: DARK EMPIRE II

AUDIO ADAPTATION TRANSCRIPT

by Christopher "Nightowl" McElroy

Based on an audio adaptation of "*Star Wars: Dark Empire II*," a six-issue comic book miniseries published by Dark Horse Comics in 1994. Audio Adaptation produced by Highbridge Audio, Inc.

Comic version written by Tom Veitch

Audio version adapted by John Whitman

**A long time ago,
in a galaxy far, far away.....**

DARK EMPIRE TRILOGY

TAPE ONE/SIDE ONE

NARRATOR: *Star Wars: Dark Empire II.*

Music: Star Wars Main Theme.

NARRATOR:

Six years after the fateful battle of Endor, Luke Skywalker learned that the Emperor Palpatine had survived the battle by transferring his mind into the body of a clone. Luke's bold attempts to learn the Emperor's secrets nearly ended in disaster for Luke and for the Rebel Alliance. But thanks to Luke's sister Princess Leia, her husband Han Solo, and other heroes of the Alliance, Luke was rescued. The Emperor himself was annihilated by Luke and Leia, and the Empire's terrible World Devastator weapons were destroyed.

But the Emperor's minions continued the war. An elite corps of Dark Side warriors were authorized to put into action the Emperor's master plan to retake the galaxy: "Operation Shadow Hand." Led by the Dark Side Executor Sedriss, these Dark Jedi initiated a series of assaults against the worlds in proximity to the Galactic Core. Sedriss's first target is the weapons world of Balmorra.

As Sedriss gathers his forces, Luke Skywalker, drawn by the Force, discovers clues

to the existence of other Jedi who, like Ben Kenobi, had escaped Darth Vader's program of extermination. Near the Cron Drift, in the derelict space city known as Nespis VIII, Luke meets a fallen Jedi named Kam Solusar in a violent confrontation...

DARK EMPIRE TRILOGY

SCENE 1-1 INT. NESPIS VIII--HALLWAY

Sound: The music crashes into "Imperial Attack" as the clash of lightsabers is heard.

LUKE AND KAM: (grunting with effort)

KAM: DIE, SKYWALKER!!!

LUKE: You cannot defeat me, Dark Jedi.

KAM: If I do not (grunts), others will follow (slash)!! I--uhh--am one of many! The Emperor's Dark Side warriors will find you!

LUKE: *Uhh!!* If you kill me--unn--I will gain powers beyond your imagination.

KAM: Your Jedi delusions mean *nothing*--uhn--to me!!

LUKE: And your Dark Side powers are nothing to me, Kam Solusar.

KAM: (lashes at Luke, who blocks) How do you know my name?

LUKE: Through the Force. The Force brought me here, to Nespis VIII. It also brought me your name, and the knowledge that you have *not* completely gone over to the Dark Side!

KAM: NO!!! (Keeps striking at Luke, who blocks every move.) I am a Dark Jedi. I serve the Emperor!!

LUKE: The Emperor is dead. The Dark Side is defeated. I feel the good in you!!

KAM: NO! (Attacks again--but not as hard as before.)

TOM VEITCH & JOHN WHITMAN

LUKE: I sense your old life. Before the Dark Side ensnared you.

Sound: Force hum begins.

LUKE: When the Force flowed through you.

KAM: NO!! NNNOOO!!!

Sound: Kam attacks, but his heart's not in it anymore. With audible effort, he turns off his lightsaber.

KAM: My life is forfeit, Jedi. Kill me.

LUKE: I do not take life unless I must. Yours I give back to you. (turns off his lightsaber.)

KAM: Why? When I lured you here... I would have made this derelict space station your grave.
The tomb of the last Jedi Master.

LUKE: Instead, I will make it the place of your rebirth. You were a Dark Jedi once. But only because you fell under the Emperor's spell. Now that spell is broken!!

Sound: The Force rises, to a wail. Kam cries out.

LUKE: Kam Solusar--I give you back your life!! I give you your freedom! I give you the power that is already yours--the power of the Jedi!!

Sound: The Force fades.

KAM: (with new strength in his voice) Skywalker...I'm free.

LUKE: The Force is strong in you.

KAM: My old life...I remember it now. I.... my father was a Jedi. I was a Jedi.

DARK EMPIRE TRILOGY

LUKE: You *are* a Jedi, Kam Solusar.

KAM: I...I owe you my life.

LUKE: Then join me. Join the New Republic.

KAM: The New Republic? (bitter) The New Republic is doomed.

LUKE: But the Emperor is dead.

KAM: Maybe. But his lieutenants are powerful Dark Side warriors. Like me, they will carry out the Emperor's last command. To destroy you and the Rebellion. They've already begun their attacks.

SCENE 1-2 INT. BALMORRA CAPITAL BUILDING

Sound: The scattering of trash, and a man's coughing.

BELTANE: (coughing) Computer.... begin transmission.

Sound: Computer comm comes on.

BELTANE: This is Governor Beltane. Coded transmission to Mon Mothma, leader of the High Council, Alliance Headquarters. They came-- (violent cough) They came like they always do--Star Destroyers flashing out of hyperspace, making threats...

SCENE 1-3 INT. STAR DESTROYER AVENGER BRIDGE - A FEW HOURS EARLIER...

GOIR: The *Avenger* has achieved hyperspace terminus, Executor Sedriss. The fleet is assembled over the planet Balmorra, and awaits your instructions. We are ready to annihilate the planet upon your command.

TOM VEITCH & JOHN WHITMAN

SEDRISS: (an extremely deep, smoky voice) Excellent, Goir. For years, Governor Beltane bragged that his war machines were the only reason for the Empire's success. Today, I'll make him eat his words. Screen on.

Sound: Viewscreen is activated.

BELTANE: (on viewscreen) Executor Sedriss. What's the meaning of this?

SEDRISS: Governor Beltane. Surprised to see a fleet of Imperial Star Destroyers over your planet?

BELTANE: Have you Imperials gone mad?!?

SEDRISS: Don't play innocent with me, Beltane. We know you're arming the Rebels. I'm here to give you the opportunity to save face, not to mention thousands of lives.

BELTANE: I'm listening, Sedriss.

SEDRISS: Surrender all your operations at once, and I'll only execute *you*.

BELTANE: So far, I'm not intrigued.

SEDRISS: Or, make me come down there personally and I'll destroy your planet and it's entire population.

BELTANE: I don't understand your problem, Sedriss. My factories are still supplying your most advanced armor. What does it matter if I make a little extra on the side, selling to the Alliance?

SEDRISS: The Alliance is a doomed collection of traitorous Rebels, and anyone who helps them is doomed as well.

BELTANE: Don't threaten me, Sedriss. You can't destroy us--you *need* us.

DARK EMPIRE TRILOGY

GOIR: Such impudence, Lord Sedriss. We should order the fleet to destroy--

SEDRISS: I know, Goir. Yet I need Beltane's weapons to smash the Rebels. That's why I simply don't wipe out Beltane and his cursed planet. Beltane--enough talk. My fleet is standing by. What is your answer?

BELTANE: You can have my answer, Executor Sedriss--
now.

Sound: The Star Destroyer is rocked by surface-to-orbit fire. An alarm goes off.

SEDRISS: (he can't believe it) By the Dark Side!!

GOIR: Planetary defenses firing on the fleet. Shields are holding. Your orders, Executor Sedriss?

SEDRISS: (grinding his teeth) Order the Star Destroyers into high orbit, out of firing range. Deploy all ground troops.

GOIR: My Lord, assaulting the city on the ground is disastrous. We'll lose thousands of stormtroopers---

SEDRISS: I DON'T CARE!!! I WANT BELTANE'S HEAD ON A SPIT!!!

SCENE 1-4 INT. BALMORRA CAPITAL

Sound: The fighting is still going on, far off.

BELTANE: (speaking from AFTER the current battle) *As you know, Mon Mothma, I'd been itching for a battle with the Empire for years. I knew my people had the firepower to match theirs.*

LIEUTENANT: Governor Beltane, Imperial troops are approaching the city! We estimate close to 30,000 stormtroopers, 700 AT-AT's, and 400 SD-9 war droids!

TOM VEITCH & JOHN WHITMAN

BELTANE: SD-9's? Executor Sedriss has last year's models. Let's show the Empire what REAL firepower is all about. Activate the SD-10's.

Sound: Far away, several hangar doors open.

SD-10: War droid SD activated. (voices of war droids overlap)

LIEUTENANT: All the SD's are operational, Governor.

BELTANE: Just in time. The Empire has arrived.

Sound: Turbolaser fire, close range.

SD-9: Surrender. The city is now under Imperial control. Surrender.

LIEUTENANT: Imperial war droids have reached the city! Imperial war droids have---(screams as a shot takes him out)

SD-9: The city is now under Imperial control.

BELTANE: SD-10's, target all Imperial battle droids!

SD-10: Affirmative. Initiating combat protocol.

Sound: Close range crossfire.

SD-9: Surrender. The city is under Imperial control. Surre--

Sound: The SD-9 is blown apart.

SCENE 1-5 INT. IMPERIAL TRANSPORT

PILOT: Blast!! Captain Veers, did you see that?

DARK EMPIRE TRILOGY

VEERS: I saw it. These Balmorrans are throwing advanced war droids at us.

PILOT: They're blowing our SD-9's apart!

VEERS: Those Balmorrans built all our equipment. They've got our all battle strategies stored in their memory banks. I'd better contact the fleet. (hits intercom) This is Captain Veers to flagship *Avenger*. Captain Veers to flagship--

SEDRISS: (over intercom) This is the *Avenger*. What is it, Captain Veers?

VEERS: My men are taking heavy casualties. These new war droids are cutting us to shreds.

SEDRISS: Stay calm, Captain---

SCENE 1-5 INT. STAR DESTROYER AVENGER BRIDGE

SEDRISS: --I have the Balmorrans exactly where I want them, Goir. Governor Beltane has thrown his entire force at my ground troops. The trap is sprung.

GOIR: Trap, my Lord?

SEDRISS: Release the Shadow Droids!

Sound: Multiple launches from the Avenger's docking bay.

SCENE 1-6 INT. BALMORRA CAPITAL

SD-10: Imperial ground troops are retreating.

Sound: Cheers from the Balmorran fighters.

BELTANE: Give pursuit! I want every last Imperial dog off my planet!

TOM VEITCH & JOHN WHITMAN

SD-10: Alert! Alert! This unit detecting a signal!

Sound: New, powerful ships fly by.

BELTANE: New signals? Where? How many?

SD-10: 8 targets at 12-0.

BELTANE: 12-0?? But that would be--

Sound: Close turbolaser rapid fire.

SD-10: Incoming ships! Retarget all--

Sound: SD-10--and a lot of its twins--are blown to hell.

BELTANE: DAMN those Imperials!!

LIEUTENANT TWO: Governor, the Empire has some new kind of assault craft! It's making a mess of our war droids!!

BELTANE: I can see that, you idiot!!

LIEUTENANT TWO: But how could they build anything that powerful without our help?!? What kind of program is running those things???

BELTANE: *Mon Mothma, we didn't know at the time -- the Emperor had been experimenting with cybernetic implants. These "Shadow Droids" were guided by the salvaged brains of dead Imperial fighter aces. Immersed in nutrient baths, and hardwired to tactics computers, these cyborg controllers coordinate with each other through a blizzard of digital coding. The results.... are devastating.*

Sound: The crackling squeal of a binary code--like a modem when going online.

DARK EMPIRE TRILOGY

LIEUTENANT TWO: They're coming in for another pass!!

BELTANE: Look at them move!! I've never seen such precision.

LIEUTENANT TWO: We'd better do something, Governor, or this battle is history!

BELTANE: Stay calm!! The Empire may have a secret weapon, but I've got a secret or two of my own...Begin Emergency Initiative Alpha. Release the Viper automatons.

SCENE 1-6 INT. STAR DESTROYER AVENGER
BRIDGE

GOIR: Executor Sedriss. We're picking up a new set of signals on the outskirts of Balmorra's main city. It looks like--

Sound: The intercom beeps for attention.

SEDRISS: This is Sedriss. Go ahead.

VEERS: (over intercom) This is Captain Veers again. Whatever the Balmorrans just launched, it's cutting through our Shadow Droids like kholm-grass!!

SEDRISS: Describe it.

SCENE 1-7 EXT. BALMORRAN BATTLEFIELD

Sound: It seems the battle has picked up in intensity by quite a few notches.

VEERS: Bipedal war droids. New turbolasers-- Squad Three, lay down cover fire!! Battle droid has retracting limbs. We're pouring laser fire onto them, but--it looks like they've got molecular shielding!

TOM VEITCH & JOHN WHITMAN

SEDRISS: (over intercom) That's IMPOSSIBLE!! No one has perfected molecular shielding!!

VEERS: You'd better tell that to the Balmorrans!

SCENE 1-8 INT. AVENGER BRIDGE

VEERS: (over intercom) These new droids are absorbing our laser fire, and sending it right back at us! LOOK OUT!!!

Sound: Close explosion. Intercom goes off.

SEDRISS: Veers?? VEERS!!! By the Dark Side!! Goir, signal the Shadow Droids to fall back!

GOIR: (whisper) No response, Sedriss. All the Shadow Droids have been destroyed.

SEDRISS: What *are* those new droids? Why wasn't I *told* about them?!?!

Sound: Intercom comes up again.

GOIR: Governor Beltane is on the line, Executor Sedriss.

SEDRISS: Beltane, you fool!!! I should level your planet for keeping secrets from the Empire!!

BELTANE: (on intercom, coughing) Your Shadow Droids already did a pretty good job of that, Sedriss. It'll take weeks for us to dig out of the rubble. But it would have been worse if I hadn't released my Viper automatons. Are you impressed with my little invention, Sedriss? (Cough, hack)

SEDRISS: I want those machines, Beltane.

BELTANE: (koff) And I'll be happy to give them to you, Executor Sedriss. In exchange for the freedom of Balmorra, that is. Then you can buy all the Viper automatons you want.

DARK EMPIRE TRILOGY

SEDRISS: Are you insane?? The Emperor won't stand for it!! He doesn't buy weapons from free planets!!

BELTANE: From what I hear, the Emperor doesn't buy weapons from anyone--he's dead.

SEDRISS: Yes, well...(sigh) ...your point is well taken. Very well, Governor Beltane--I'll send down representatives to draw up terms between your planet and the Empire.

SCENE 1-9 INT. BALMORRA CAPITAL--AFTER THE BATTLE

BELTANE: *And then Executor Sedriss and his Star Destroyers vanished into the flicker of hyperspace. I may have made a deal with a Sarlacc. But Mon Mothma, I don't intend to keep it. That's why I'm forwarding this communication to you and the Rebel Alliance. I want to make a deal with the New Republic. I only hope we can figure out what Sedriss is planning....*

SCENE 1-10 INT. AVENGER BRIDGE - IN HYPERSPACE

GOIR: I don't understand what you're planning, Executor Sedriss. We should vaporize the Balmorrans and be done with them!!

SEDRISS: Watch your tongue, Goir, before I watch it wriggling in my hand! I want those new droids for the Empire. I'll agree to anything Beltane wants, for now. Once those droids are in my possession, I'll use them to reduce Balmorra to space dust. Frankly, I don't intend to waste any more time with little fish like Beltane. I have a more important adversary to deal with. I must prepare for the Emperor's return. And to do that, I must first eliminate...

SCENE 1-11 INT. LUKE'S X-WING COCKPIT

TOM VEITCH & JOHN WHITMAN

HAN: (over intercom) Luke Skywalker!! How are ya, kid?

LUKE: Fine, Han. Good to hear your voice. Good to be back at Pinnacle Base, too. Do you have room for one more beat-up old X-Wing Fighter in the spacedock?

HAN: Dock commander's cleared you for immediate touchdown, but scanners show another ship behind you!

LUKE: I've brought a friend, Han. Ready to take her in, Kam? Landing at Pinnacle Base can be pretty tricky.

KAM: (over intercom) I'm right behind you, Luke. The Jedi Knights will rise again!!

Music: On that triumphant note, the Star Wars Fanfare plays....

SCENE 1-12 INT. PINNACLE BASE HANGAR

Sound: The X-Wing and Kam's ship lands in the cavern hangar.

CHEWBACCA: GRUNTS OUT A FEW WORDS.

HAN: Yeah, Chewie, I see it. Luke's X-Wing's got some new scars on her. Looks like our Jedi Master's seen some action.

LEIA: As long as Luke's all right. He needs to train our two children. And the one waiting to be born.

LUKE: (coming up) Han! Leia!

HAN: Luke!

LEIA: Welcome home!

CHEWBACCA: GROWLS HAPPILY.

LUKE: Hello, Chewie.

DARK EMPIRE TRILOGY

LEIA: Luke, who's this?

KAM: My name is Kam Solusar. It's an honor to meet you.

LUKE: Leia... Kam is a Jedi.

LEIA: A Jedi?! But I thought the others were all killed by the Emperor!

KAM: I was apprenticed to the great Jedi Master Ranik Solusar--my father. Now I've begun my service under Luke Skywalker.

LEIA: (sighs, giddy) What a strange feeling! Luke, this means we're no longer alone!

LUKE: You wouldn't know it from the small reception we've received. Where is everybody?

HAN: Mon Mothma and the High Council are in session. Even some of the military types like Wedge Antilles are there. It's a big meeting, Luke, and you're just in time.

SCENE 1-13 INT. PINNACLE BASE MEETING HALL

Sound: The Hall is filled to bursting as the meeting goes on. The heroes quietly enter.

BELTANE: (over intercom) And then Executor Sedriss and his Star Destroyers vanished into the flicker of hyperspace. I may have made a deal...

MON MOTHMA: As you've just heard, Governor Beltane has defeated the Empire's forces in open battle. Beltane's a practical man. He's still dealing with the Empire, but his planet suffered serious damage, and he wants revenge.

KAM: Excuse me, but...everyone in this room has a grudge against the Empire. What makes this guy any different?

TOM VEITCH & JOHN WHITMAN

LEIA: The difference is Beltane can supply us with the cargo of the new X1 Viper automaton war droids he's just sold to the Empire.

HAN: As well as the itinerary and registry numbers for the Frigates that are hauling them to the Imperial command center on Byss.

LEIA: We know exactly where we're going to intercept that shipment. Once we have those droids, we'll target the six top Imperial command posts.

WEDGE: I've got a better idea.

MON MOTHMA: Yes, General Antilles?

WEDGE: We should let the shipment go through to Byss--- but we'll pack it with a cargo of our Rebel troops. When we reach Byss, we'll wheel out the new droids and make a dash for the Citadel!!

MON MOTHMA: That's a daring plan, General Antilles. I like it!! A quick thrust to the Citadel, and the war would be OVER!!!

LUKE: I disagree, Mon Mothma. This *is* the moment to press our advantage. But I've been on Byss. I know their security. You'll never reach the Citadel.

LEIA: But Luke, aren't you forgetting? I flew the *Millennium Falcon* right up to the Emperor's front door!

HAN: Yeah, security on Byss is like a sieve!

LUKE: Because *I was there* to pave the way, Han. You only saw a fraction of the Emperor's power. There are forces on Byss--creatures of unspeakable horror--as well as weapons.... that you can't imagine.

DARK EMPIRE TRILOGY

WEDGE: But don't forget, Luke, we'll have surprise on our side. In an odds-down fight, that counts for a lot.

HAN: I agree with Wedge. With the Emperor gone, there's a good chance the Imperial big shots are at each other's throats! Their response to a direct attack would be sluggish at best.

MON MOTHMA: I agree. (gently) Commander Skywalker.... Luke...we certainly respect your concerns. Do what you have to do to re-establish the Jedi. And we will do what *we* have to do, to fulfill our responsibilities to the Alliance. We can't afford to wait. We must strike *now*--at the heart of the Empire!

LUKE: But--

MON MOTHMA: Meeting adjourned.

SCENE 1-14 INT. PINNACLE BASE HALLWAY

LUKE: Walk with me, Kam.

KAM: It's quite a strong-willed bunch of people, Luke. I can't believe they won't listen to the advice of a Jedi Master.

LEIA: (coming up) Luke?

LUKE: They've survived for years without much help from the Jedi. They know they need us, Kam. It's just going to take them a while to remember that we're here.

LEIA: Luke?

LUKE: Leia? What is it?

LEIA: Luke, I just wanted to say.... I hope there's not going to be a conflict between you and the Alliance.

TOM VEITCH & JOHN WHITMAN

LUKE: I don't see a problem, Leia. I suppose the Alliance must think in terms of immediate gains. We Jedi will do what we must.

KAM: I know I'm the new guy here, but...I-I don't think Mon Mothma knows what she's getting into. The Emperor has a new elite corps of Dark Side warriors. They're very powerful. I know. I was one of them.

LUKE: We'll have to wait and see, Kam. Here we are.

COMPUTER: (beeps an alarm) Caution. Access to Holocron chamber is restricted. Please identify.

LUKE: Recognize: Luke Skywalker.

LEIA: Recognize: Leia Organa-Solo.

KAM: Uh.... recognize: Kam Solusar.

COMPUTER: Luke Skywalker--recognized. Leia Organa-Solo--recognized. Warning-- (alarm goes off) Kam Solusar--not recognized. Conflict in Alliance Security.

LEIA: Cancel that order. Security override by command of Leia Organa-Solo.

COMPUTER: Security override engaged. (alarm shuts down) You may enter the Holocron Chamber.

Sound: Double doors open...

SCENE 1-15 INT. HOLOCRON CHAMBER

Sound: Luke, Leia, and Kam walk in. Hum of the Holocron, from far away.

KAM: By my father's spirit, you people take your security seriously around here.

DARK EMPIRE TRILOGY

LEIA: We have to, Kam. The Empire is constantly working spies into the lower echelons.

LUKE: And the Jedi Holocron is the only link we have to our history.

KAM: The Holocron. I heard rumors that the Emperor had a Holocron on Byss. It's hard to believe this little cube holds such ancient secrets.

LEIA: Luke, I spent a lot of time studying the Holocron while you were gone. It told me--I think Vima-Da-Boda can help us.

KAM: Hmm. Not really much to look at...

LUKE: That ancient Jedi you met on Nar Shaddaa?

KAM: No access panels....

LEIA: I need to find her, Luke. Before she dies.

LUKE: You need to go into hiding, Leia. Until your child is born. It will be a very great Jedi.

KAM: No holographic projectors...

LEIA: I will, Luke. As soon as I find Vima. Then Han and I are going to New Alderaan to spend time with the twins.

LUKE: Well, Vima *was* a Jedi. And right now, we could use-- (all the help we can get.)

KAM: (interrupts) It's just a--hey!!

Sound: Holocron hum becomes louder.

BODO: Greetings, Jedi.

TOM VEITCH & JOHN WHITMAN

KAM: I, uh....

BODO: (echoing from the Holocron) I am Bodo Baas, Gatekeeper of the Holocron. Do you have a question for me?

KAM: Q-Question?

LUKE: Go ahead, Kam. That's what the Holocron is for.

KAM: Uh...uh.... Master Baas, I, uh.... I'd be grateful for any advice you could give us in this struggle against the Dark Side.

BODO: Many great battles are yet to come. Many trials and many tests. Yes, and many Jedi Knights may someday be. But above all, patience is needed. Patience is the way of the Jedi. Go to Ossus. To the sources. Things that were lost can now be found. The dead may return to life. Although men may forget its name, the Force can never die....

Sound: The Holocron shuts itself off.

KAM: *That....* was very strange.

LUKE: (you can hear the grin) Welcome to my world.

Music: Luke's theme plays for a moment.

SCENE 1-16 EXT. PINNACLE BASE HANGAR

HAN: Hey, Salla. You about ready?

SALLA: (growls) Always ready for you, Solo.

HAN: Cut it out, Salla. You may be an old girlfriend, but you know I'm a married man. And a father.

SALLA: Mmm. There are planets in this galaxy where that's a recommendation, Solo.

DARK EMPIRE TRILOGY

HAN: Salla...

SALLA: Don't worry, Solo. I'm not nearly as interested in you as I am in getting off this rock. I need to get back to Nar Shaddaa. The minute I'm home, I'm jumping a freighter to Byss, since you were kind enough to abandon my ship there.

HAN: Well, you'll get your wish. Leia's on her way. She's got her heart set on finding some old Jedi woman. Come on, let's lock everything down.

SALLA: I'm ready, Solo. But the Wookiee decided this is the time to rip out the repulsor compensator.

HAN: CHEWIE!!

CHEWBACCA: PROTESTS LAMELY.

HAN: I don't care what kind of a noise it's making, we're in a hurry! Here come Luke and Leia!

Sound: A land transport brings Luke and Leia to Han and Salla.

SALLA: I told him to forget it. The *Falcon's* been flying with a broken compensator for as long as I can remember.

LEIA: Han, is the *Falcon* ready?

HAN: Ready as she'll ever be. Hey, furball, get down from there, unless you want to ride all the way to Nar Shaddaa on the deflector shield dish!

SCENE 1-17 INT. PINNACLE BASE HANGAR--A
SHORT TIME LATER

LUKE: *Millennium Falcon*, you are cleared to launch.

LEIA: (over comlink) Thanks for seeing us off, Luke.

TOM VEITCH & JOHN WHITMAN

LUKE: Kam and I will see you when you get back, Leia. Good luck. And may the Force be with you.

Sound: The Falcon's engines warm up....

LEIA: And you. *Millennium Falcon*--launch.

Sound: And awayyyy it goes...

KAM: Your sister is a strong Jedi, Luke.

LUKE: She was raised to be a leader, Kam. A great destiny awaits her.

KAM: So what kind of destiny awaits us? We heading for this planet called Ossus?

LUKE: Yes. I've already prepped the new ship--the *Jedi Explorer*. And on the way, you can tell me about this Dark Side character you call...

SCENE 1-18 INT. BYSS--EMPEROR'S CITADEL--
THRONE ROOM

SA-DI: SEDRISS!! You've failed at Balmorra. You have the gall to return here, to the Emperor's throneworld?

SEDRISS: Yes, Sa-Di. I'm the Imperial Executor. I rule Byss until the Emperor returns.

SA-DI: The Emperor is dead.

SEDRISS: That's never stopped him before.

SA-DI: He cannot return this time. He will be lost in the netherworlds for a thousand years.

DARK EMPIRE TRILOGY

SEDRISS: Because Skywalker thinks he destroyed all the cloning tanks? You know as well as I the secret dungeons below the Citadel--

SA-DI: Yesss, Sedriss. I am a Dark Jedi too. I've seen the cages of the Chrysalis Beasts, and read the *Book of Anger*.

SEDRISS: Then you know that there are secret tanks below the Citadel that no Jedi could ever touch.

SA-DI: NO--the Emperor will *not* return!! I am in command now!!

SEDRISS: Sa-Di, you command nothing!! You're nothing but a second-rate councilor with delusions of grandeur and--

Sound: Sa-Di lights up--

SA-DI: --and a lightsaber, Sedriss. I have touched the Dark Side. I have the power now.

SEDRISS: (he can't help it--he's laughing his butt off) Oh, Sa-Di...if you really knew the power of the Dark Side, you would know that the Emperor *will* return. That his arrival is imminent. All around us, the Dark Side gathers its presence.

SA-DI: You are insane, Sedriss. And you are dead.

Sound: Sedriss lights up his own lightsaber.

SEDRISS: I have a lightsaber of my own, Sa-Di. But I also have the power of the Dark Side. Power given to me by the Emperor himself.

Sound: The two Dark Jedi duke it out, swinging and grunting.

SA-DI: No..... NO!! HE'S DEAD!!

SEDRISS: He is here.

TOM VEITCH & JOHN WHITMAN

SA-DI: The Emperor's time has passed! I WILL RULE!!!

SEDRISS: You will--

Sound: Sa-Di's death scream, as his lightsaber hits the floor.

SEDRISS: die. There. That's the last of the Dark Siders who lost their faith. I have culled the weakest of the herd.

A FAMILIAR VOICE: Excellent, my friend.

SEDRISS: My master!

Sound: Sedriss turns off his lightsaber. Rustling of cloth, as Sedriss kneels before...

EMPEROR: I see at least one of my chargemen has been faithful during my absence.

SEDRISS: I'd hoped you would return, your Majesty. But--

EMPEROR: (laughs) Fear not, Executor Sedriss. The cursed Skywalker did not destroy *all* my precious clones. And so, the Emperor lives.... *AGAIN*.

Music: Imperial Theme.

SCENE 1-19 INT. MILLENNIUM FALCON COCKPIT

CHEWBACCA: GRUMBLES.

HAN: Okay, Chewie, we're approaching Nar Shaddaa. Get ready to cut in the sublight drive.

SALLA: I live on this smuggler's rock. But you? You're a respectable man these days.

CHEWBACCA: CHUCKLES.

DARK EMPIRE TRILOGY

HAN: Laugh it up, fuzzball. Anyway, this isn't *my* idea.

LEIA: (entering) It's mine.

HAN: Leia! I thought you were resting.

LEIA: (sighs) I *was*, but the baby's kicking. I think he's a little worried about us.

SALLA: Yeah, well he oughta be. After what you and Han did last time you were on Nar Shaddaa, you've got every bounty hunter and his mother's mate after you. And most of them live here.

HAN: Okay, Chewie, I'm dropping out of hyperspace in 5....

LEIA: I don't have any choice, Salla. I've got to find that old Jedi woman--Vima-Da-Boda.

HAN: 4....

CHEWBACCA: GRUNTS.

Sound: Proximity alarm.

SALLA: I just hope you don't run into trouble down there.

HAN: Not to worry, Salla. To me, Nar Shaddaa's like coming home. Cutting in the sublight engines now.

Sound: The Falcon roars out of hyperspace. Every alarm goes off.

CHEWBACCA: ROARS.

LEIA: Imperial Star Destroyer dead ahead!!!

Sound: The Destroyer opens fire on the Falcon.

HAN: Chewie, evasive action!!

TOM VEITCH & JOHN WHITMAN

SALLA: Just like coming home, huh Solo? Lucky you dropped out of hyperspace with your shields up, hotshot.

HAN: Are you kidding? I wouldn't drop in on my mother without my shields up!! Chewie, angle the deflectors!!

LEIA: They're gaining on us. (suddenly distant) Han.... there are Dark Side warriors on that ship. I can feel them.

HAN: Don't worry, Leia, I'll think of something. I hope.

SALLA: Han, you see that guidance tower?

HAN: The one at point four two?

SALLA: No, the really big one, over there at---oh, give me the controls, Solo!

HAN: WHAT?!?

SALLA: I know a secret route through the old Duros Sector! Give me the controls!!!

HAN: Aw...OK, Salla, but go easy on her. Her acceleration equalizer just started acting up.

SALLA: Just get out of the way!!

SCENE 1-20 INT. STAR DESTROYER BRIDGE

FASS: Lord Katth, scanners report that is definitely the *Millennium Falcon*.

KATTH: Yes, Baddon Fass. I can sense the presence of the Jedi woman. Sedriss will be pleased with us. Lock on tractor beams.

FASS: The ship just dropped off our screens!

DARK EMPIRE TRILOGY

KATTH: Impossible! It couldn't have gone into hyperspace this close to the planet!

FASS: It didn't go up. It's going down.

KATTH: Oh, they must have cut their engines. They're dropping toward the planet's surface like a meteorite.

FASS: And they're heading toward the abandoned Duros Sector. The pilot must be a madman.

KATTH: Or a genius. There's no way we'll track them through all those ruins.

SCENE 1-21 INT. MILLENNIUM FALCON COCKPIT

Sound: The Falcon races through the Duros ruins.

HAN: Salla, you're crazy! You'll never make it through all these ruins!

SALLA: C'mon Solo, this is the best way to loosen up a sticky stabilizer.

LEIA: Thrusters are off-line! We're in freefall!

SALLA: Just close your eyes, Solo. It'll be over in a second.

CHEWBACCA: GROWLS.

Sound: The Falcon suddenly levels out.

HAN: Thrusters are firing. We're leveling off.

LEIA: Salla, you did it!

TOM VEITCH & JOHN WHITMAN

SALLA: It's tough tracking any ship through the old Duros spaceport, Han. Especially when they've cut their power sources.

HAN: Scanners show a tunnel leading to the sub-levels. Set her down in there, Salla.

SCENE 1-22 INT. STAR DESTROYER BRIDGE

FASS: We've lost them, my Lord.

KATTH: By the darkness.... Last location?

FASS: Rocketing into the ruins of the old Duros spaceport.

KATTH: Well, they can't hide in that old slime pit forever. Order the Destroyer to continue orbital scanning. The minute that ship re-emerges, I want it tractored into our cargo bay.

FASS: And if they remain planetside?

KATTH: I know just the man to go in and find them.

SCENE 1-23 EXT. NAR SHADDAA TUNNEL

SALLA: Okay, Solo. Thanks for the lift, but this is where I get off.

HAN: Huh? Aren't you gonna help us?

SALLA: Listen, Solo. All I want is my ship, the *Starlight Intruder*. That ship YOU left on Byss. First thing I'm doing is hitching a ride. I hear *Salvager Three's* gonna make a Deep Core run soon.

LEIA: Salla.... the Alliance can use you.

DARK EMPIRE TRILOGY

SALLA: No way, Princess. I'm a smuggler in a holler. I get paid to stay neutral.

LEIA: But you can't stay neutral forever. Eventually, everyone will be forced to take sides.

SALLA: Nice try, Princess Solo. The couple of fights were okay. But your husband here lost me my best ship. And right now, all I'm thinking about is me. Now, if you just head up this tunnel, you'll find the main entrance to the surface of Nar Shaddaa. The other way leads down into the sublevels. *Don't* go there. Good luck, and goodbye.

Sound: Salla walks away.

CHEWBACCA: GRUMBLES AT SALLA'S ATTITUDE.

HAN: Yeah, Chewie. Sometimes you can't even count on your friends.

LEIA: Don't worry, Han. This isn't the first time a smuggler thought they'd given up the fight. Now.... where are we? There's something strange about this place...

HAN: We're on the edge of the deepest levels of Nar Shaddaa, Leia. This is an old abandoned section of the city. Mostly underground corridors and rotting steel crate. This place hasn't seen the light of day in years.

LEIA: Why did Salla warn us to stay away from the lower levels? I sense something down there...

HAN: It's not safe. It's full of scavengers and vermin. Not to mention a few things that would eat a Wookiee.

CHEWBACCA: BALKS.

HAN: My sentiments exactly, pal. Only idiots would go down into these tunnels.

TOM VEITCH & JOHN WHITMAN

LEIA: Han--that's where we must go.

HAN: How did I know you were going to say that?

LEIA: Han, Vima is here. I can feel her presence.

HAN: Here?! Nobody lives down here!!

LEIA: Maybe that's why she does. She's been hiding from the Empire for years. She'd want someplace private. And what's good for her is good for us. Should be safe down here for a while....

HAN: Sure. Now all we have to worry about are all the sub-intelligent predators that haunt these old ruins. And any stormtroopers that decide to chase us.

CHEWBACCA: RUMBLES.

HAN: Right. And bounty hunters, particularly one bounty hunter by the name of---

SCENE 1-24 EXT. NAR SHADDAA SPACEPORT

KATTH: ---Boba Fett.

BOBA: You called?

KATTH: I am Zasm Katth. This is Baddon Fass. We are members of the Emperor's Dark Side elite.

BOBA: And?

FASS: We have a job for you. The *Millennium Falcon* dropped off our screens near the abandoned Duros Sector. But it's somewhere on this planet. We want you to find it.

BOBA: I'm.... at your service. For a price.

DARK EMPIRE TRILOGY

FASS: In the past, the Empire hired your services, Fett. This time, we'll make a different arrangement.

KATTH: You will work for nothing.

BOBA: No thanks. My price has gone up.

KATTH: Listen, LITTLE MAN. What we're paying has gone down. We know everything about you, Fett.

FASS: We know you were an Imperial stormtrooper. We know you murdered your superior officer. We OWN you.

Sound: Boba's blaster shoots up, armed and cocked.

BOBA: Back off or taste laser. Vader and me had an understanding. He paid me well, and I got the job done.

Sound: The Dark Force rises. Boba suddenly starts choking, and drops his blaster.

KATTH: Vader's authority has passed to us, bounty hunter. And that blaster won't help you at all.

BOBA: Should've guessed.... Dark Side power.... choking me...

FASS: Shall I kill him?

KATTH: No. We need his underworld connections. But remove his helmet--I want to see his face.

BOBA: Imperial scum...won't work for YOU!!

Sound: Boba fires his wrist rockets.

KATTH: Look out!!

FASS: (groans and hits the floor)

TOM VEITCH & JOHN WHITMAN

Sound: Boba bolts out of the area.

BOBA: (shouting over his shoulder) Even Dark Siders should know better than to mess with Boba Fett!! Now to find Solo...

Music: Suspenseful climax, then fade to silence.

END OF SIDE ONE

TAPE ONE / SIDE TWO

SCENE 2-1 EXT. NAR SHADDAA - GHETTO STREET

Music: The creepy piece again.

Sound: The sloshing of water as Han and Leia walk knee-deep through a VERY dirty street.

HAN: (gags in disgust) Shoulda known it Leia, first time you made me jump down that garbage chute that this relationship was gonna drag me through the mud.

LEIA: Oh, quit complaining, Han. At least *you're* not trying to climb through this slime-pit pregnant.

HAN: I'm happy to turn around any time you want.

CHEWBACCA: GROWLS IN AGREEMENT.

LEIA: I CAN'T. I've got to find Vima.

Sound: An ugly growl.

LEIA: Uhn! What was that?

DARK EMPIRE TRILOGY

HAN: Where?

LEIA: Over there! Something moved over there in the shadows!

HAN: Was it big?

LEIA: Yes.

HAN: Then it's trouble. I knew it was a bad idea to come down here.

LEIA: But Vima's up ahead somewhere. I can sense her.

Sound: A louder, uglier growl.

HAN: Yeah, and Chewie can smell trouble!

Sound: A sudden rushing sound as the creature (make that creatures) leaps at the three. Chewie growls as he fights the critter.

HAN: (fires blaster) Look out!!

LEIA: What are they??

HAN: (fires again) Chewie, watch it!!

Sound: Han fires yet again, and we hear one of the creatures crunch down on Chewie.

HAN: CHEWIE!!

Sound: Chewie kills the final critter.

HAN: So much for that monster. Look at the teeth on that thing.

CHEWBACCA: WAILING IN PAIN.

LEIA: Chewbacca, you're hurt!

TOM VEITCH & JOHN WHITMAN

HAN: Oh, no. One of his teeth broke off in your shoulder.

CHEWBACCA: MOANING.

HAN: Uh, hold steady...hold steady....

CHEWBACCA: SCREAMS.

HAN: You'd better clean out that wound, Chewie. You never know what diseases these creatures are carrying.

CHEWBACCA: GROWLS A QUESTION.

HAN: We can take care of ourselves, pal! Besides, I need someone to guard the *Falcon* with all this wildlife hanging around. Go on, you stubborn pile of fur!

CHEWBACCA: (moving off) GRUMBLES IN AGREEMENT.

LEIA: Will he be okay, Han?

HAN: Sure. His pride's hurt more than anything. Wookiees take their life debt seriously. And he hates leaving us. Come on, let's go.

SCENE 2-2 EXT. NAR SHADDAA GHETTO STREET
- A SHORT TIME LATER....

LEIA: Here! She's through here!

HAN: Blech. What kind of Jedi lives under all this garbage?

LEIA: One who was hunted by Darth Vader for years. Come on--I can feel the Force in her. She's down this tunnel.

HAN: Okay, but watch out. I thought I heard something moving behind us. Probably another one of those creatures.

DARK EMPIRE TRILOGY

VIMA: (surprised and happy) Jedi! Jedi!!

LEIA: Vima!!

HAN: Whoo--she smells worse than the garbage.

LEIA: Han, Vima is a Jedi. A descendant of great masters.

VIMA: Jedi must leave. There is danger here. Great danger for Jedi.

LEIA: Vima, we came for you. We want you to leave this place. Will you come with us?

VIMA: Mmm. You carry great one in your womb. A great Jedi. Vima is not worthy to serve great Jedi.

Sound: Moving of garbage as someone else appears.

BOBA: You won't live long enough to have the chance.

HAN: Boba Fett!

BOBA: I heard you were back, Solo. Good to see you. Your skin's going to make me a rich man.

Sound: Boba fires at Han.

HAN: Get down!!

Sound: Everybody ducks for cover as Fett fires again.

LEIA: He's got us pinned down!

HAN: Yeah, and he's blocking the only exit. Got your blaster with you?

LEIA: Just my lightsaber.

TOM VEITCH & JOHN WHITMAN

HAN: Last thing I want is my (ducks a shot) Yeow, that was close--is my *very* pregnant wife getting into a lightsaber duel with Boba Fett! Looks like it's one on one.

Sound: Han fires.

BOBA: Nice shot, Solo. But I've got the advantage on you. If you let me take you alive, you'll still have a chance to escape before the Hutts will have you back in a carbon freeze.

LEIA: You have to come and get us first, bounty hunter!

BOBA: If you resist, I'll kill you AND your pregnant wife.

Sound: Han stops firing.

LEIA: Han! Don't stop firing!!

HAN: He's right, Leia.

LEIA: What?

HAN: He's got us pinned down. It's only a matter of time before he picks us off. Maybe if I give myself up, he'll let you go free.

LEIA: Han, don't--

HAN: Leia, you and the baby mean more to me than anything. I've *got* to. ALL RIGHT FETT, I'M COMING OUT!!

Sound: Han steps out of hiding.

BOBA: Drop the blaster, Solo.

HAN: I won't make trouble, Fett. Just leave my wife alone.

Sound: A growl....

DARK EMPIRE TRILOGY

BOBA: I'm making no promises, Solo. The Hutts want your wife as much as they want you.

Sound: The growl becomes a howl--Chewbacca's howl!! He jumps at Fett--

HAN: Chewie!

BOBA: Where'd the Wookiee come from?!

Sound: Chewie slugs Fett. Fett hits the ground Biff Tannen style.

HAN: Way to go, Chewie!

BOBA: That was your *last* mistake!!

CHEWBACCA: YELPS AS FETT LEAPS BACK UP AND TACKLES HIM.

HAN: Chewie, wait!

BOBA: Eat laser.

Sound: Boba Fett shoots Chewbacca, at point blank range.

CHEWBACCA: SCREAMS.

Sound: Chewie hits the ground hard.

LEIA: *Chewbacca--!*

HAN: Chewie! Chewie, get up...

BOBA: Don't move, Solo, or you'll join the Wookiee.

HAN: If Chewie's hurt, you can start kissing your mother's picture goodbye Fett!!

BOBA: The Wook's dead, Solo. I always wondered how much it would take to kill one of these monsters.

TOM VEITCH & JOHN WHITMAN

LEIA: (hopeless) Boba Fett killed Chewbacca....

VIMA: No, daughter. Can you not feel it in the Force? The Wookiee is alive.

BOBA: Tell your wife to step into the open, Solo.

HAN: Over my dead body, you scum!

BOBA: I can arrange that. It's been a fun chase, Solo.
But...wha--what's that?

Sound: Chewie whimpers as he climbs up behind Fett, covering his visor with one hand and tinkering with Boba Fett's backpack with the other...

BOBA: Hey!! Get your hands off me, you hairball!! I can't SEE!!

CHEWBACCA: ROARS.

HAN: Attaboy, Chewie!

BOBA: Leave my jetpack alone, you--

Sound: Fett's backpack lights up, and Fett flies screaming upward.

HAN: Igniting Boba Fett's jetpack--Chewie, that was quick thinking!

CHEWBACCA: RUMBLES IN AGREEMENT.

HAN: What you got there, pal?

CHEWBACCA: GROWLS.

HAN: Boba Fett's helmet? I always wondered what that womprat looked like, but he's too far away to see now. And he'll probably keep going until--

DARK EMPIRE TRILOGY

Sound: Fett crashes through the roof of the level--and keeps on going.

HAN: --he hits the roof.

CHEWBACCA: GROWLS AN APOLOGY.

HAN: Sorry? What are you sorry about?

CHEWBACCA: GRUNTS A REPLY.

HAN: Because you followed us? Chewie, you saved my life!

LEIA: (splashes up) Han! Chewie, are you all right?

HAN: I'm fine, Leia. Chewie's hurt pretty bad, but that didn't stop him from tearing Boba Fett's helmet off his fat head!
(laughs)

LEIA: Maybe that's the last we'll see of that scum. Let's go.

Sound: As they walk away, from far above....

BOBA: (without his helmet amp) Run, Solo. Run. Wherever you go.... wherever you hide.... I'll find you.

SCENE 2-3 INT. IMPERIAL TIE FIGHTER

SQUAD LEADER: Attention, Freighter *Hyperspace Roamer*. This is Imperial Escort Squadron Beta on approach vector.

ROAMER CAPTAIN: (on comm) You're on our scopes, Squad Leader. But does the Empire really need so many ships?

SQUAD LEADER: Do we make you nervous, *Hyperspace Roamer*?

TOM VEITCH & JOHN WHITMAN

ROAMER CAPTAIN: I'm just not used to seeing so many TIE Fighters floating around my ship.

SQUAD LEADER: Don't worry. We're just here to protect that cargo of Viper automaton war droids. You never know when those damn Rebels are going to--

Sound: Proximity alarm. Speak of the Devil...

SQUAD LEADER: Wait a minute--all ships alert!! I've got a full squad of X-Wing Fighters at 2 kilometers! Why didn't my scopes pick them up before?!

ROAMER CAPTAIN: Perhaps because I was jamming your transmissions.

SQUAD LEADER: WHAT?!? IT'S A TRAP!!!

ROAMER CAPTAIN: Good luck...

SCENE 2-4 INT. HYPERSPACE ROAMER BRIDGE

ROAMER CAPTAIN: ...*Hyperspace Roamer*, out.

SQUAD LEADER: (on comm now) All ships, execute evasive plan 21! Execute--AGGHH!!

Sound: The Squad Leader blows up REAL good. And so do all his friends.

WEDGE: (on comm) This is Rogue Squadron to *Hyperspace Roamer*. Do you copy?

ROAMER CAPTAIN: We copy, Rogue Squadron. Good work.

WEDGE: We couldn't have done it without your help! Thanks!

DARK EMPIRE TRILOGY

ROAMER CAPTAIN: You can thank me by taking this freighter full of war droids and cramming it down the Empire's throat!

SCENE 2-5 INT. MILLENNIUM FALCON COCKPIT

HAN: I'm glad Wookiees heal fast, Chewie. I need you to help me calculate the hyperspace jump while I fly out of this city.

VIMA: Vima is frightened! Vima senses danger.

HAN: Leia, tell that old woman to relax, will ya? Boba Fett's long gone. We're almost out of these ruins, and in a few minutes, Nar Shaddaa will be history.

VIMA: (insistently) Vima senses danger!!

LEIA: Careful, Han.

HAN: Leia, please. I know Nar Shaddaa like the back of my hand--

LEIA: (laughs) That's what you said last time we were here. As I recall, you led us right into a trap.

HAN: Yeah, well that was then. Look, there's the city landing tower up ahead. All I gotta do is swing around the guidance beacon and--

Sound: Alarm goes off--

HAN: ---AND EVADE THAT STAR DESTROYER!!!
DEAD AHEAD!!

SCENE 2-6 INT. STAR DESTROYER BRIDGE

FASS: *Millennium Falcon* on screens, Katth. They are almost in tractor range.

TOM VEITCH & JOHN WHITMAN

KATTH: Excellent. In moments, they'll be safely aboard our ship.

FASS: And then we go after Boba Fett!

KATTH: Patience, Baddon, patience.

FASS: That bounty hunter almost killed me!

KATTH: We'll have time for him afterward. Executor Sedriss is sure to promote us for this! Engage tractor beam!

SCENE 2-7 INT. MILLENNIUM FALCON COCKPIT

Sound: The ship begins shaking as the tractor takes hold.

LEIA: We're slowing down.

HAN: Chewie, load up the engines.

CHEWBACCA: GROWLS.

LEIA: Still slowing.

VIMA: Danger! Danger!

CHEWBACCA: GROWLS LOUDER.

HAN: We're locked in a tractor beam.

LEIA: Can you pull away?

HAN: That beam's pulling the rivets out of the walls as it is.

CHEWBACCA: GRUMBLES.

HAN: Don't worry, pal. I've got a plan.

DARK EMPIRE TRILOGY

SCENE 2-8 INT. STAR DESTROYER BRIDGE

FASS: Tractor beam locked on. Looks like they're heading for the guidance tower...trying to make a run for it.

KATTH: They'll never make it. Increase tractor beam to full strength.

FASS: But my Lord, the book says that a full strength beam may draw another--

KATTH: We are Dark Side warriors! We don't go by the book! Increase to full strength!!

SCENE 2-9 INT. MILLENNIUM FALCON COCKPIT

Sound: The shaking gets worse.

LEIA: Tractor strength increasing. We'll be going backward any minute.

HAN: Just need a few more seconds....

CHEWBACCA: GROWLS.

LEIA: Han, you're heading straight for the conning tower!

HAN: That's the idea, Leia. Almost there...almost...THERE!

SCENE 2-10 INT. STAR DESTROYER BRIDGE

Sound: Alarm goes off.

FASS: Katth, they've flown too close to that guidance tower below!! We're losing the tractor lock!!

KATTH: Reengage!! NOW!!!

FASS: Tightening the beam...Reengaging...We've got a lock!!

TOM VEITCH & JOHN WHITMAN

Sound: Distant explosion.

KATTH: NO--you FOOL!! You've locked onto the guidance tower!! You're pulling it out of the ground!!
DISENGAGE! DISENGAGE~~!!!!

FASS: TOO L--

Sound: The guidance tower crashes into the Destroyer.

SCENE 2-11 INT. MILLENNIUM FALCON COCKPIT

LEIA: Look at that!

HAN: That Star Destroyer's speared like a lungfish.

Sound: Proximity alarm.

LEIA: Don't celebrate too soon. Scanners show more ships are headed our way. Multiple configurations.

HAN: Bounty hunters.

LEIA: We'd better get out of here.

HAN: You're right, Leia. Chewie--punch it!!

Sound: The Falcon roars into full speed.

SCENE 2-12 INT. IMPERIAL CHECKING STATION -
BYSS

LANDING CONTROL: *Hyperspace Roamer*, your docking code has passed. Go directly to Port tower Tarkin 12, Bay 327. Landing Control out.

Sound: Beeping.

DARK EMPIRE TRILOGY

LANDING CONTROL: Hmm. Attention, unauthorized ship on approach vector. This is planet Byss Security. Identify yourself.

SALLA: (over comm) Umm...this is the freighter *Salvager Three*, bound planetside out of Nar Shaddaa.

LANDING CONTROL: Copy, *Salvager Three*. Transmit your security codes now.

Sound: The computer hums and clicks as it receives the code.

SALLA: I'm sending. I hope you're receiving.

LANDING CONTROL: Affirmative. Hmm. It checks out, *Salvager Three*, but it's an older code. What is your business on the planet Byss?

SCENE 2-13 INT. SALVAGER THREE - BRIDGE

LANDING CONTROL: (on comm) I repeat, this is Byss Security to *Salvager Three*. What is your business on the planet Byss??

SALLA: Uh, this is *Salvager Three*, service tech Salla speaking. I'm here to do specialized repairs on one of the old Corellian Corvettes. (whisper) I hope the Imps buy my story. I know I wouldn't.

LANDING CONTROL: *Salvager Three*, you know the regulations. All repairs on Byss are performed by the Imperial maintenance corps.

SALLA: Listen, Security. A hauler named Lo Khan commed in for these parts. I'm the only supplier in a hundred systems. But if you want me to turn around, I guess I'll just have to sell them to someone else. (whispers to herself) I don't think they're going for it. Maybe I can try to jump out of here before--

TOM VEITCH & JOHN WHITMAN

LANDING CONTROL: *Salvager Three*, you are cleared to land. Welcome to Byss.

SALLA: Yes!! Affirmative, Security. Any time I can do you a favor--

Sound: Beeping noise.

SALLA: Hey, what's that thing in high orbit?

LANDING CONTROL: Classified information, *Salvager Three*. Move along.

SALLA: Come on, you can tell a nice girl like me a secret, can't you? That thing must be the size of five Star Destroyers. It looks like some kind of gigantic.... gun.

LANDING CONTROL: NEGATIVE, *Salvager Three*. Further questions will result in your IMMEDIATE destruction. Now ---

SALLA: "Move along." I know, I know.

Sound: Comm goes off.

SALLA: Imperial stiffs. Sheesh. Still, that hardware makes all the ships around it look like toys. Bound to be a weapon of some sort...maybe I should contact the Alliance and tell--- (chuckles) No. Those aren't my coordinates anymore. I've got to think about me. Still, whatever that weapon is, it looks devastating. The Emperor is gone, but his jackboots are going on with business like nothing happened. Hmm. Sometimes I wonder if he's really...

SCENE 2-14 INT. BYSS PALACE - THRONE ROOM

EMPEROR: Dead? How can they be dead?!?!

DARK EMPIRE TRILOGY

SEDRISS: Forgive me, my Lord. Zasm and Baddon Fass were Dark Side warriors! I assumed they could surely capture the *Millennium Falcon*--

EMPEROR: Executor Sedriss, you seriously misjudge your enemies. And now two of my Dark Side warriors, not to mention a precious Star Destroyer, have been lost. What am I to do except kill you, Sedriss?

SEDRISS: Your Majesty, Katth and Fass are gone, but their deaths hardly matter. You have other warriors, such as Tetryn Shar, and Zecr Nist, who you can easily promote. Besides, Skywalker is what matters, and I *have* him, as well as the other Jedi I told you about--Kam Solusar.

EMPEROR: Don't dare to speak in riddles to me, Sedriss. You have *not* captured Skywalker.

SEDRISS: Only a detail, my Lord. One of our probes has tracked Skywalker to the planet Ossus.

EMPEROR: (shocked whisper) Ossus? Of course. The Holocron he stole from me must have led him there. Skywalker wants to revive the Jedi Knights. What better place to begin, than at the source of the ancient Jedi's power.

SEDRISS: The probe is still tracking Skywalker. Allow me the honor of bringing him to you, my Lord.

EMPEROR: Yes, Sedriss. I will. Bring me these Jedi alive, and I will make you very wealthy and powerful, my friend. Fail me...and you will envy Katth and Fass the quick death they enjoyed.

SEDRISS: By your command, my Lord. I leave for Ossus.

SCENE 2-15 INT. JEDI EXPLORER BRIDGE

TOM VEITCH & JOHN WHITMAN

COMPUTER: Ossus. Fourth planet in the Adegan system. Current technology: Early Industrial. Previous technology: 4,000 years ago, Ossus was the center of great civilization composed mainly of Jedi, including Nomi Sunrider, Ulic Qel-Droma--

KAM: Computer off.

Sound: Computer switches off.

KAM: The *Jedi Explorer's* historical files has some good information on this planet, Luke. We should review them some more.

LUKE: Download the incoming sensor data into those files, Kam. Scanners show lots of debris. We'll want to study the information. The ruins must be thousands of years old. Left over from the Sith War that devastated this place millenia ago.

KAM: There's a good spot, Luke. Set her down over there.

Sound: The Jedi Explorer soars over the debris and comes to a landing.

SCENE 2-16 EXT. OSSUS

Sound: The Jedi Explorer's hatch opens.

KAM: By the spirits of all the Jedi.

LUKE: An appropriate oath, Kam. Ossus was the home of the Jedi. They were prosperous and great. Once.

Sound: The far-off gobbling of an Imperial Probe Droid.

KAM: What's all this old equipment for?

LUKE: I don't know. Secrets lost long ago. But what did the Holocron tell us? "Things that were lost can now be found..."

DARK EMPIRE TRILOGY

Sound: The Probe Droid is closer---

KAM: It looks like something's found us!! Luke, get down!!

Sound: The Probe Droid opens fire on Luke and Kam.

LUKE: What is it? Did you get a look?

KAM: Probe droid. Stinkin' Imperial scum!!

LUKE: Kam, consider this your first lesson on the Light Side of the Force. Anger is *not* the way of the Jedi.

Sound: Luke lights up his lightsaber.

LUKE: A Jedi is always at peace.

Sound: Luke steps out to face the droid.

KAM: Luke!! Come back here!!

LUKE: This--uhn--droid is fast! But not fast--uhh--enough!!

Sound: Luke beheads the droid with his lightsaber.

KAM: Luke! You did it!

LUKE: Of course. The Force is more powerful than any machine. I wasn't worried about the droid. I *am* worried about what happens next. Did the Imperials know we were coming here?

KAM: It could have been a random sighting. The Empire has probes in almost every system.

LUKE: Let's not take any chances. Break the T-77 airspeeder out of the *Jedi Explorer's* cargo bay. We'll put as much distance between us and this droid as we can.

SCENE 2-17 INT. AIRSPEEDER

Sound: The distinctive hum of the airspeeder, as Luke pilots.

KAM: Computer on.

Sound: Computer reactivates.

KAM: Continue overview of planet Ossus.

COMPUTER: Ossus. Number of existing cities: Zero. Number of former city locations: 12,006. Topography: Mountainous, rich in minerals. Sentient Life: Ossus is inhabited by pre-technology humanoids. Surface Structure: Tribal.

KAM: Hey Luke, computer says we got people around here somewhere.

LUKE: I can feel them through the Force, Kam. Head down to that canyon over there.

Sound: Airspeeder dips into the canyon.

LUKE: The Force is very concentrated here, Kam. This place might still be inhabited by Jedi!

KAM: You're right, Luke. This place is inhabited, but I'm not sure they're Jedi. Look.

SCENE 2-18 EXT. YSANNA TRIBE

Sound: The airspeeder comes to a landing in the center of a tribal area.

RAYF: (a young teenage boy speaking with a strange accent) Jem! Jem!! Who are they??

DARK EMPIRE TRILOGY

JEM: (a slightly older girl with the same accent) I don't know, Rayf! And I don't want to find out! Can you free yourself?

Sound: Luke and Kam start walking toward the two.

RAYF: No. These ropes are too tight.

KAM: Well, well. What do we have here?

LUKE: Don't tease them, Kam.

KAM: Sorry, Luke. It's not every day you land on a strange planet and find a boy and a girl tied to a tree. And a strange-looking tree at that.

JEM: I am not a GIRL! I'm a woman!

LUKE: The Force is strong in these two. In fact, the Force is very strong in this place. It's strange....

KAM: If they're Jedi, what are they doing tied to a--

LUKE: I don't know. The files said these people were tribal. Maybe this is some sort of ritual. Whatever it is, I'm cutting them loose.

KAM: Careful, Luke. We don't want to mess with any local taboos.

LUKE: The return of the Jedi Knights takes precedence over *everything*.

Sound: Luke lights up his lightsaber.

RAYF: Jem! He's going to kill us!

JEM: No--!

Sound: Luke cuts the rope holding the two to the tree.

TOM VEITCH & JOHN WHITMAN

JEM: We--we're alive!

LUKE: You're free.

RAYF: Jem, run!

Sound: Rayf and Jem run off.

JEM: Okko, save us!

KAM: (laughs) Some Jedi! They're running like rats!

LUKE: Well, they're not quite Jedi. They need a teacher.
We'll take them with us.

OKKO: You'll take no one, outlanders!!

KAM: Uh oh, Luke. Looks like we got company!!

Sound: Tribal drums.

OKKO: You should not have interrupted the ritual of
ascent!!

KAM: Must be 15 or 20 of them. Where'd they come from?

LUKE: I don't know, Kam. There's something different
about them. (louder) We meant you no harm! We thought
they were in trouble! They were tied to this tree!

OKKO: That is no mere tree. It is the place of Ascension.
For 4,000 years, it has been the source of my people's great
magic.

KAM: "Great Magic?" From trees? Luke, this is getting
weird--

DARK EMPIRE TRILOGY

OKKO: Blasphemers!! This ground has been sacred to the Ysanna people for generations! Ysanna warriors, prepare your concussion arrows!

KAM: Fairly primitive weaponry.

LUKE: WAIT! We have no wish to harm you!

OKKO: FIRE!!

Sound: Luke and Kam ignite their 'sabers. The Ysanna fire their weapons, which the Jedi easily block.

KAM: (they both block arrows throughout) Whoa! For primitives using concussion arrows, these guys have pretty good aim!

LUKE: It's--uhn--the Force, Kam! I can feel it! They use the Force to guide their missiles! Every one of these people could be a potential Jedi!!

KAM: They're the source of the Force you felt earlier!!

LUKE: Maybe. But there's still something else. Something about that strange tree....

OKKO: Cease fire! They are.... they are unharmed!

Sound: The lightsabers deactivate.

OKKO: Impressive, outlanders. But your trick swords will not help you. I am Okko, the greatest magician my people have ever known. Now, feel the force of *my* power!!

Sound: The Force rises--weakly. The tribesmen begin to chant.

KAM: Do you feel that, Luke?

LUKE: Yes. Tiny movements in the Force. Very easy to block. This guy needs some training.

TOM VEITCH & JOHN WHITMAN

OKKO: You resist! But no one can resist the magic of the Ysanna~!

LUKE: What you call "the magic of the Ysanna," I call "The Force." The power of the Jedi.

OKKO: (gasps) You DARE speak the sacred words?! You know of the Jedi???

LUKE: I *am* a Jedi.

KAM: Jedi Master is more like it.

TRIBESMEN: Jedi! Jedi! He said he was a Jedi.... (etc.)

OKKO: Jedi. Jedi! Then the legends of my people are true!! The Jedi have RETURNED!!!

Sound: At that moment, a ship roars overhead, and turbolaser fire opens on the people. The tribespeople scream and run for cover.

LUKE: EVERYONE DOWN!!

KAM: Luke!! I know that ship!! That's a long-range Imperial hunter!!

SCENE 2-19 INT. SCOURGE ONE BRIDGE

GOIR: *Scourge One* has begun landing procedures, Lord Sedriss.

SEDRISS: Excellent, Goir. Set the ship down next to that gnarled tree.

GOIR: Scanners show a large group of humanoid armed with primitive weaponry, my Lord. As well as the two Jedi.

Sound: The Scourge One lands.

DARK EMPIRE TRILOGY

SEDRISS: Our Dark Troopers will make short work of those savages, Goir.

GOIR: Touchdown, my Lord.

SEDRISS: Release the Dark Troopers.

SCENE 2-20 EXT. YSANNA TRIBE

Sound: The door of the Scourge One opens.

TROOPER: All squads, mark your targets!

KAM: Stormtroopers. This is about to get nasty, Luke.

LUKE: Not if the Ysanna have anything to say about it.

OKKO: Ysanna warriors--ATTACK!!!

Sound: The Ysanna and the stormtroopers start duking it out.

KAM: This won't be easy, Luke. Those are Dark Troopers. The elite of the Imperial stormtroopers. Those Ysanna tribesmen don't stand a chance.

LUKE: Then come on, Kam! Let's even the odds!

Sound: Lightsabers ignited and ready, the two Jedi wade into the struggle.

SCENE 2-21 INT. SCOURGE ONE BRIDGE

TROOPER: (on comm) Assault Team Three to *Scourge One*. We're encountering a minor problem from the primitives.

SEDRISS: Remove the problem, Team Leader. I want those Jedi.

TOM VEITCH & JOHN WHITMAN

TROOPER: Affirmative, sir. The Jedi are just ahead of us, closing in now-- (sound of lightsaber slash)
AAAGGGHHH!!!

SEDRISS: Team Leader!! Team Leader, what's going on?!?

LUKE: (having taken the trooper's comm) Your Dark Trooper won't be answering you.

SCENE 2-22 EXT. YSANNA TRIBE

LUKE: If you want to know what's going on, you'll have to come out and see for yourself.

KAM: Luke--watch it!

TROOPER TWO: Die, Jedi!

Sound: A blaster shot. Luke deflects it. The trooper is killed.

KAM: Luke, are you--

LUKE: I'm fine, Kam. How are the Ysanna?

JEM: We are fine, Jedi. My people can take care of themselves.

LUKE: You *are* quite a brave young woman.

SEDRISS: (now outside) Courage will be of no use to you, Jedi!

LUKE: You must be Sedriss. Kam Solusar told me about you.

GOIR: Imperial Executor Sedriss, Jedi scum. Now you'll die.

Sound: The Dark Force rises.

DARK EMPIRE TRILOGY

KAM: (choking) My throat!! I can feel the cartilage snapping...

LUKE: That's an old Sith trick. It's deadly, but I know how to block it.

KAM: Hurry--please-- (can suddenly breathe again)
Ah...that's better.

LUKE: Is throat-crushing the best you can do, Sedriss?

SEDRISS: Son of Vader. You'll pay for murdering the Emperor!!!

Sound: Sedriss and Goir ignite their own lightsabers.

SEDRISS: Slice off their fighting arms, Goir. We'll take them alive!!

GOIR: As you command, Sedriss!

LUKE: Sedriss is mine, Kam! You take the other one!!

KAM: Come on, Goir. Care to dance?

Sound: Two lightsaber duels begin.

GOIR: Kam Solusar, you betrayed the Dark Side. Your life is forfeit.

KAM: Careful, Goir. Don't forget you showed me all your moves when I was a slave of the Dark Side!

GOIR: (screams as he dies)

KAM: And I recognized that one all too well.

SEDRISS: Your meager skills with the lightsaber will not protect you from me, Skywalker.

TOM VEITCH & JOHN WHITMAN

LUKE: It's not just the lightsaber, Sedriss. It's the Force that wields it!! The Dark Side is narrow, Sedriss. You know nothing of the Force, just as the dead Emperor knew nothing of the true power. And so, I've already won!

SEDRISS: You've won nothing, Skywalker!! The Emperor is NOT DEAD!! You haven't killed him! You can *never* kill him!!!

LUKE: (shocked) What?!? What do you mean!?!

KAM: Luke--watch out!! He's going for the girl!!

JEM: (screams as Sedriss grabs her, and puts the lightsaber to her neck)

SEDRISS: If you're smart, you'll join the Emperor, Skywalker. He can make you as powerful as he's made me.

LUKE: Powerful enough to use a woman as a shield?

SEDRISS: I do what I must. One step closer, and I will annihilate this woman with the Dark Side!

Sound: Luke and Kam deactivate their lightsabers.

JEM: Let go of me, outlander!!!

SEDRISS: What's this? Ah, the Force is active in her. She's trying to use it against me. I see your plan, Skywalker. You want to make a Jedi of her. But I will take her to the Emperor. She will serve him as a Dark Jedi!

LUKE: Never.

A BOOMING, ECHOING VOICE: NEVER!!!!

SEDRISS: Who said that?

KAM: Luke, is that some Jedi trick you haven't shown me?

DARK EMPIRE TRILOGY

LUKE: Not from me, Kam. I think that tree just spoke!!

Sound: The ground begins shaking.

THE TREE: (moaning and groaning as it shakes loose of the ground)

JEM: (amazed) The tree...the source of my people's power...it has come to life!!

KAM: It's going for Sedriss with its roots!

SEDRISS: (gasps as he is pulled skyward by the tree)

TREE: I AM MASTER OOD BNAR, A JEDI. IT HAS BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE I HAVE SENSED THE PRESENCE OF ANOTHER JEDI.

LUKE: Ood? I am Luke Skywalker. The Jedi Holocron contains the words of an ancient Jedi Master named Ood.

OOD: THOSE WERE MY WORDS. THOUGH I RECORDED THEM NEARLY 5,000 YEARS AGO.

SEDRISS: Curse you, Jedi!! I don't care if you're a MILLION years old!! Nobody imprisons a Dark Jedi!!

Sound: The Force--and Dark Force--rises, competing in loudness.

OOD: (groans) GET BACK, SKYWALKER. THIS EVIL ONE IS TRYING TO KILL ME. BUT I AM A GREATER MASTER OF THE FORCE THAN HE.

KAM: Luke, can you feel that?

LUKE: Sedriss is drawing dark power out of the atmosphere. But Master Ood is drawing energy from the ground beneath. The strain is tearing this place apart!!

TOM VEITCH & JOHN WHITMAN

KAM: Then let's get out of here!

JEM: Jedi, help me!!

LUKE: Sedriss still has the Ysanna woman! Jem, take my hand!!

SEDRISS: (straining) The woman--dies--with me--
Skywalker!

KAM: Luke, come on! It's too late to save her!!

LUKE: Then it's too late to save the Jedi. I won't leave
without her!!!

OOD: SKYWALKER, I CANNOT HOLD HIM MUCH
LONGER...

JEM: Jedi--!

SEDRISS: DIE, SKYWALKER!!!

*Sound: A tremendous explosion. Luke, Kam, and Jem scream as they
are flung several feet into the air, and crash to the ground.*

JEM: Alive! I'm alive. How--?

LUKE: The Force. I used it to shield us.

KAM: Luke...thank the Force.

LUKE: Ood--is he--

KAM: (sadly) He's gone, Luke. Disintegrated. And Sedriss
with him.

JEM: (shocked and grief-stricken) The ancient tree.... the
source of my people's power.... gone.

DARK EMPIRE TRILOGY

LUKE: That tree wasn't the source of your power, Jem. The Force was. And I can teach you how to use it.

JEM: I...would like that.... Luke. But I am sorry for my people.

KAM: (surprised) Don't be too sorry, Jem. Look!

Sound: The Force is rising again.... as is something else.... from the ground...

JEM: A tiny sapling! Pushing its way out of the ground!

KAM: Looks like Master Ood left a descendant behind.

LUKE: What was it the Holocron said? "Someone who was dead may yet live. Although men may forget its name, the Force can never die." Now Master Ood has left someone to carry on his Jedi power.

Music: Star Wars End Theme comes up....

LUKE: This is a sign, Kam. The Jedi Knights WILL rise again.

Music: End Theme plays to its triumphant conclusion.

END OF TAPE ONE

TAPE TWO / SIDE ONE

Music: Star Wars Main Theme.

TOM VEITCH & JOHN WHITMAN

NARRATOR: Six years after the Battle of Endor, Luke Skywalker was forced to face the Emperor once again. With the aid of his sister, Princess Leia, Luke was able to defeat the Emperor once and for all.

Or so he thought.

As Luke sought to revive the ancient order of Jedi Knights, the Emperor reappeared. With the help of his Dark Side Executor, the evil Sedriss, the Emperor renewed his efforts to defeat the Alliance, and to capture Luke Skywalker.

As the Alliance planned a secret attack against the Empire, Luke Skywalker journeyed to the planet Ossus, with the Jedi Kam Solusar. In a battle on the planet Ossus, Luke Skywalker defeated Executor Sedriss with the aid of the ancient Jedi Master Ood, who sacrificed himself to protect Skywalker and his friends. In the aftermath of the battle, Skywalker began to study the ancient Jedi ruins that cover Ossus.

Meanwhile, Han and Leia have rescued the ancient Jedi Vima-Da-Boda from the ruins beneath Nar Shaddaa. Having beaten a Star Destroyer's commander in a battle of wits, Han and Leia flee Nar Shaddaa in the *Millennium Falcon*. But bounty hunters are close behind....

SCENE 3-1 INT. MILLENNIUM FALCON COCKPIT

Sound: Proximity alarms going off, the Falcon being fired on.

CHEWBACCA: (on comm. from the *Falcon's* gun turret)
WAILS.

HAN: I see it, Chewie, I see it!

LEIA: (on comm from the *Falcon's* other gun turret) What's wrong?

HAN: We've got two more bounty hunters coming over the nightside of the planet.

DARK EMPIRE TRILOGY

LEIA: I see them now. Visibility's not so great in this turret gun.

VIMA: Jedi should not have come to rescue Vima. Jedi must live!!

HAN: Yeah. Well, thanks for the advice, lady. (to Leia and Chewbacca) Can you two shoot a little straighter!?

SCENE 3-2 INT. MILLENNIUM FALCON GUN
TURRET

LEIA: I'll shoot straight if you'll fly straight.

HAN: (on comm) If I fly straight, they'll pick us out of the sky -- *Watch it!* Got two ships trying to outflank us.

LEIA: We're on them.

HAN: Better hurry.

LEIA: I've got one in my sights. Chewie, take that Howlrunner on your left!

CHEWBACCA: (on comm) ROARS AS HE FIRES.

HAN: Here they come!!

Sound: The Howlrunners fire. The Falcon shakes.

HAN: We're hit!! You'd better hurry!

LEIA: Got 'em--NOW!!

Sound: Leia fires. The ships are blown up.

LEIA: Got 'em!

TOM VEITCH & JOHN WHITMAN

HAN: Good shot, Leia!

CHEWBACCA: CRY OF VICTORY.

SCENE 3-3 INT. MILLENNIUM FALCON COCKPIT

HAN: Yeah, yeah, you too, Chewie. All right, I think we're clear. I'm punching up the hyperspace coordinates for---

Sound: Weapons fire from outta nowhere, and a tremendous explosion-- on the Falcon, as one of the ship's two front boarding arms are blown clear off.

LEIA: (on comm) What was *that?!?*

HAN: We're hit. BAD. But who--?!

BOBA: (on comm, apparently with a spare helmet on) I've got you now, Solo.

HAN: Boba Fett. What does it take to kill you?!

BOBA: More than you've got, Solo. A few more seconds, and--

HAN: Aw, shut up. Chewie, get down below and lock up the reactor lines. I'm leaking like crazy.

LEIA: Can I help?

HAN: Not unless you wanna get out and push. We've got ten minutes of reserve power. And that's not gonna help with Fett pounding on our tail.

CHEWBACCA: (on comm) HOWLS LOUDLY.

HAN: No way to stop the leak, huh? Then get back up here and help me steer.

DARK EMPIRE TRILOGY

VIMA: (completely panicked) Jedi must not perish!!!

HAN: Don't worry old lady, Han Solo's always got a trick Sabacc card up his sleeve.

LEIA: You'd better do something fast.

HAN: Already on it. Our charts show a gas cloud, a few light-years from Nar Shaddaa. It's dangerous, but it's our only chance.

Sound: Another bit on the Falcon. Another siren goes off.

COMPUTER: Proximity alert. Entering interstellar gas cloud. Radiation levels rising. Proximity Aler--

HAN: (turns it off) Tell me something I don't know.

BOBA: Neat trick, Solo. That cloud's disrupting my scanners. But you can't hide in there forever. And when you come out, I'll be waiting.

CHEWBACCA: MOANS WITH WORRY.

HAN: Yeah, I'd like to see you rip his arms off too, Chewie. Take the helm. I'm gonna try and get our bearings.

LEIA: (rushing up to him) Han, are you crazy?!? The radiation in the space cloud will eat through the hull in seconds!

HAN: Maybe you'd rather try to reason with Boba Fett. Anyway, I'm gonna swing the *Falcon* around, and---wait a minute...

Sound: The ship flies through the other end of the cloud.

LEIA: Is the static clearing?

HAN: We're through!!

TOM VEITCH & JOHN WHITMAN

CHEWBACCA: GROWLS IN SURPRISE.

HAN: What in the world is THAT??? Chewie, bring her around fast!

LEIA: What is that thing??

HAN: I dunno. Some kind of antique ship. Came outta nowhere.

LEIA: I must be dreaming...

HAN: I know. There aren't supposed to be any spaceports in this area.

LEIA: I-I don't mean that. I mean that spaceship. Am I dreaming, or is it powered by...STEAM???

SCENE 3-4 INT. VIPER AUTOMATON, INSIDE THE
IMPERIAL HAULER RELIANCE

WEDGE: Ow! What is that?

ZEV: (not the killed officer from Hoth, but Zev Veers) It's my blaster. Sorry.

WEDGE: It's sticking in my back!

ZEV: Sorry! There's not a whole lot of room in here, you know.

WEDGE: Yeah, well these Viper automaton war droids weren't designed to carry passengers. You should feel lucky.

ZEV: Lucky? Sure. I always wanted to crawl into the guts of a war droid, stow away on an Imperial freighter, and sneak onto the Emperor's homeworld. Yippee.

DARK EMPIRE TRILOGY

Sound: Footsteps, coming closer.

WEDGE: Shush. Be quiet. Someone's coming.

NIST: Tetryn Sha, we achieve docking orbit over Byss in 12 minutes. Are these war droids ready?

Sound: The man taps on the side of the droid.

ZEK: Ow!

WEDGE: Shhh!

SHAR: Affirmative, my Lord.

SCENE 3-5 INT. RELIANCE--JUST OUTSIDE THE DROID

NIST: Excellent. We must take a shuttle over to report to the Emperor immediately.

SHA: Is..... my Lord, is.... he really alive?

NIST: He is the Emperor. He cannot *be* killed. Now, have your men ready to supervise the transfer of the Viper automatons to the cargo shuttles.

SHA: Yes, my Lord! We'll unbolt the droids as soon as we achieve orbit!

SCENE 3-6 INT. DROID

SHA: (from outside) My men are ready!

WEDGE: Huh. Not as ready as you think.

SCENE 3-7 INT. GALAXY GUN CORRIDOR

TOM VEITCH & JOHN WHITMAN

NIST: My Lord, Xecr Nist and Tedryn-Sha, reporting as ordered.

EMPEROR: Ah. Xecr Nist. How goes the delivery of my new war droids?

NIST: Um...On schedule, my Lord. And may I say...it is good to see you so...

EMPEROR: Alive? Yes. It *is* good. Especially on such a glorious day. Now, tell me about my new weapon--the Galaxy Gun.

NIST: Not just *a* weapon, my Lord. *The* weapon. The Galaxy Gun launches intelligent projectiles into hyperspace. Each projectile can exit hyperspace at precise coordinates, find its target, and destroy it. Its threat is absolute.

EMPEROR: Marvelous. It's a wonder we didn't think of it decades ago. My galaxy weapon is sure to inspire obedience, and it means the end of the Rebel Alliance.

NIST: My Lord, this weapon can destroy a city, or a land mass--

EMPEROR: -- or even a *planet! Anywhere* in the Galaxy. Everything is falling into place, exactly as I have---

Sound: A comm signals for attention.

EMPEROR: Eh?

OFFICER: (on comm) My Lord, Intelligence reports that Executor Sedriss and his assistant Goir have been murdered!!!

EMPEROR: MURDERED?!?! SKYWALKER!!!! He is turning my Dark Side secrets against me! I taught him *too* well.... first Katth and Fass, now Sedriss and Goir. Without my Dark Side warriors, Skywalker may well triumph. You! Tedryn-Sha and Xecr Nist!! Kneel before me!!

DARK EMPIRE TRILOGY

NIST: M-My Lord?

EMPEROR: KNEEL!!!

NIST AND SHA: Yes, My Lord.

Sound: The two kneel before the Emperor. The Dark Force begins to rise up....

EMPEROR: I have watched you. You have advanced in submission to my will. I will make you Dark Jedi, extensions of my own power. Xecr Nist, you will replace Sedriss as my military commander.

NIST: (sounding darker) Yes, my Lord.

EMPEROR: Tedryn-Sha, you will be second in command.

SHA: (also darker and more evil-sounding) My Lord.

EMPEROR: I now vest you both with the full rank of Dark Jedi. Let this power enter you, and fill you with the knowledge and strength of the Dark Side of the Force that is mine to give you!!!

Sound: The Dark Force rises to a wail.

NIST AND SHA: (moan and cry out in pleasure as the Dark Side envelopes them)

EMPEROR: (laughs) Can you fathom this mysterious power? In my hands, the Dark Side can bestow the most malevolent gift!

NIST: I feel the power!!

EMPEROR: Or it can cause the most delicious pain...

TOM VEITCH & JOHN WHITMAN

SCENE 3-8 EXT. OSSUS PLAIN

LUKE: (screams in agony)

KAM: Luke!! What's wrong?

LUKE: (still hurting) I...I don't know. Something...a great disturbance in the Force...terrible...and all too familiar....!

KAM: What do you mean?

LUKE: Sedriss wasn't lying. Emperor Palpatine is ALIVE!! Somehow, he's alive again!

KAM: Take it easy, Luke. You-you want to sit for a minute?

LUKE: (suddenly free of pain) No. The pain is passed. Come on. Let's find the Jedi library the Ysanna mentioned.

Sound: The party sets off again.

JEM: It's just ahead. My great-grandfather found it years ago. But he made us swear to keep it secret, so that no one would defile the sacred places. Here.

KAM: Great. We'd need three construction droids to move this boulder.

LUKE: That is not a problem.

Sound: The Force rises...and the boulder moves.

LUKE: Stand back.

Sound: The boulder is lifted free, and put aside.

JEM: By the gods! Even Okko cannot move such a large boulder with his magic!

DARK EMPIRE TRILOGY

LUKE: Size means nothing. There.

SCENE 3-9 INT. JEDI LIBRARY

Sound: Hollow footsteps.

KAM: (awed) Luke...all these artifacts!

JEM: And they are so well preserved!

LUKE: It's the dry air. Like Tatooine. Things last forever.

KAM: Eww -- including this guy. Check out the mummified body. Even the orchids he was holding were preserved.

JEM: His death must have been sudden.

LUKE: Hmm. I wonder if he was the caretaker of this place?

KAM: Luke, look at this book! Can you read what it says?

LUKE: A little. Something about...."Jedi Battle Meditation." I should study this book. I should study all these books.

JEM: (stammering out the words) Luke.... I want to be with you when you study. I want to be a Jedi.

LUKE: Jem.... I...you *will* be a Jedi.

SCENE 3-10 INT. YSANNA VILLAGE - NIGHT

Sound: A campfire is burning.

OKKO: Jedi, you bring the evil warriors to my people. And now you ask to take our people from us!?!

LUKE: Chief Okko, I believe your ancestors were Jedi. *You* can be a Jedi.

TOM VEITCH & JOHN WHITMAN

OKKO: We are not Jedi! We are Ysanna! We do not *need* you to teach us anything. Ysanna magic is strong.

JEM: Okko, I want to go with them. I want to become a Jedi Knight.

OKKO: Jem, I wish I could forbid you. The Ysanna gods are not pleased with your choice. But they told us not to stop you.

LUKE: Good. Chief Okko, I will return, I promise. In the meantime, I ask you to guard this place as best you can. These Jedi secrets must not fall into the wrong hands.

OKKO: We are Ysanna! We do not need you to tell us to guard our land!

LUKE: Very well, then. Kam, let's go. We're bringing a future Jedi back to Pinnacle Base.

Music: Star Wars fanfare.

SCENE 3-11 INT. MILLENNIUM FALCON COCKPIT

Sound: Beeping of the Falcon's alarm.

HAN: If I wasn't seeing it with my own eyes Leia, I'd say you were crazy. But I think you're right...that spaceship runs on steam!

Sound: A far-off (cannon!?) shot from the mystery ship. A siren goes off.

CHEWBACCA: GRUNTS IN SURPRISE.

HAN: Incoming projectile, course 109er!

LEIA: Shields up!

DARK EMPIRE TRILOGY

HAN: No power, no shields--bring her around, Chewie! Get out of its path! That'll buy us some time until it homes in on us.

CHEWBACCA: MOANS.

Sound: The cannonball blows past the Falcon.

LEIA: That projectile just flew past us! It never even changed course!

HAN: Get a reading on it, Leia.

LEIA: 15 centimeters in diameter, composed mainly of lead. No internal circuitry, it...Han, is it a cannonball??

BRAND: (metallic voice, on comm) Attention alien spacecraft! This is His Majesty's battleship the *Robida Colossus* hailing. That shot was just a warning. You are intruding on Ganathan space. You will accompany us to port, or you will be destroyed.

HAN: You're gonna have to tow us, pal. We're flying on fumes.

SCENE 3-12 INT. ROBIDA COLOSSUS HANGAR

Sound: The inside of the Colossus sounds like a machine shop at full operation.

LEIA: Han, this is incredible! This entire spaceport is run by steam power.

HAN: Look at all these relics! I bet no one's seen designs like this for.... 10,000 years!

LEIA: I'm surprised you never heard of this place.

TOM VEITCH & JOHN WHITMAN

HAN: Spacers tell a lot of stories, I heard things, but nobody who tried breaching that cloud ever came back. Oh, Chewie, check out that freighter!! It's fitted with brass portholes! Just like outta a history book.

BRAND: They may be antiques to you, but to these people, they are miracles of science.

Sound: The legless droid body of Brand hovers close to the heroes.

LEIA: By the Force....

BRAND: As am I.

LEIA: A-a...who are you? How did you get so....

BRAND: How did I become a half-man encased in all this machinery? That.... is a long story. As for my name, it's not much shorter. I am Empatajayos Brand of Ganand.

HAN: Empato.....

BRAND: Call me Brand. I rule these people. And like you, Leia Organa-Solo, and like the old lady beside you...I am a Jedi.

HAN: YOU? A Jedi?

VIMA: (amazed herself) Yes! Vima knows. A Jedi!

BRAND: It's been many, many years since I fell through the gas cloud. Many years since I last saw a Jedi. I had thought Vader would have killed us all by now.

LEIA: It's true...The Force *is* bright in you.

BRAND: But little is left of me.

LEIA: How?

DARK EMPIRE TRILOGY

BRAND: Vader. He hunted me. I fled into the gas cloud, but my ship was destroyed. My ruined body encased in this pressure suit, I floated in empty space, until I was rescued by the Ganathans.

HAN: Who are these people?

BRAND: A whole civilization, cut off from the rest of the galaxy by that cloud. They cannot get out, and very few people ever get in. Left to their own resources, they have developed this technology. It's bizarre, but functional.

LEIA: And you?

BRAND: They say a Jedi can rule those less powerful than himself. This I have done here -- I hope with justice. But come, we have much to discuss. Vader must be a *very* great warlord by now. He must rule many systems...

HAN: You *have* been out of touch.

SCENE 3-13 INT. SPACER'S BISTRO - BYSS

Sound: The bar is full and jumping, as an electronic tune plays.

SALLA: (growl) Lo Khan, it's been a long time.

LO: Not long enough, Salla. Last time I saw you here, you nearly got me arrested by the Imperials.

SALLA: Let's let bygones be bygones, Lo Khan. All I want now is to get my ship, the *Starlight Intruder*.

LO: Good luck. Last I heard, the Imps had melted her to slag.

SALLA: (crushed) What a waste. I spent six years building that ship.

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LO: Yeah, well the Imps wasted little time stripping anything they could get their hands on.

SALLA: Maybe they need it for that big orbital weapon they're building.

LO: I dunno. But they're stockpiling like there's no tomorrow. Check out the cargo bay across the way. They're unloading some new kind of war droids right now.

SCENE 3-14 INT. VIPER WAR DROID

Sound: The Viper is picked up and hoisted out of the ship.

ZEV: (grunts and yells as he's banged around) You'd think these Imperials would treat their war droids a little more uhh--oof--gently!

WEDGE: Zev, activate the coded subspace channel.

Sound: The comm comes on.

WEDGE: This is General Wedge Antilles to all units. We're on the docks. Energize the power as soon as the last droid has been offloaded and turn 'em loose!

SCENE 3-13 EXT. IMPERIAL LOADING DOCK - OUTSIDE THE DROID

SHA: (sounding darker and far more self-confident) Be careful with that war droid! If it's damaged, you'll all be Rancor food! Okay, that's the last one. Now--

Sound: The war droids all come to life!!

COMPUTER: X-1 Viper Automaton CPU online.

SHA: WHAT THE--!?!?

DARK EMPIRE TRILOGY

COMPUTER: Combat protocols initiated.

SHA: This must be a malfunction or---

COMPUTER: Main program.

SHA: RUN!!!

Sound: The droids start blasting and tearing up everything in sight. The scene is total pandemonium.

SCENE 3-14 INT. VIPER WAR DROID

ZEV: YAHOO!! We're doing it!

WEDGE: All war droids are up and running. Order all the pilots to guide their war droids towards the Citadel. THIS IS IT!!

SCENE 3-15 EXT. IMPERIAL LOADING DOCK

SHA: ALERT!! ALERT!!! We've got a droid revolt on our hands!!! Planetside Security, we need gunships!! And TANK droids!! (suddenly takes several shots and chokes to the ground)

SCENE 3-16 INT. SPACER'S BISTRO

Sound: All talk has stopped. Everyone in the bar is watching the fight in progress.

SALLA: Did you see what I see? Those war droids are going berserk.

LO: What's going on?

SALLA: Before I left, I heard rumors that the Rebels were planning a surprise attack. I never thought they'd have the

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guts. Look--they're busting through the terminal gates.
They're heading for the Emperor's Citadel.

Sound: An Imperial Gunship roars over the bar and starts blasting at the raging droids.

SCENE 3-17 INT. WAR DROID

ZEK: The Imperials are fighting back hard, but they're no match for these droids.

WEDGE: Scanners show 20 Gunships heading our way.
Lock in the air defense procedures.

ZEK: Got it, boss. Hold on to your hat--

Sound: The droid cranes its head skyward.

ZEK AND WEDGE: (yell as they're thrown down inside the droid's "stomach")

Sound: The droid fires, and takes out the first Gunship.

ZEK: We're doing it! We've reached the Citadel!! All units, repeat, WE'VE---

SCENE 3-18 INT. CITADEL THRONE ROOM

NIST: --reached the Citadel!! I repeat -- Rebel forces have reached the Citadel!! Inform the Emperor immediately!

EMPEROR: (on comm) This is the Emperor, Executor Nist. You have my attention.

NIST: My Lord, Rebel forces have infiltrated our new war droids. They're using them to attack this Citadel!! Tedryn-Sha has been wounded. We need your help!!

DARK EMPIRE TRILOGY

EMPEROR: Nonsense!! Can't you see I'm inspecting my new Galaxy Gun? YOU are my military commander now. YOU must deal with them yourself!!

NIST: But your Majesty--

EMPEROR: I DON'T NEED THOSE WAR DROIDS!!! Destroy them. Release the Chrysalis Beasts.

NIST: The Chrysa...but your Majesty!! They cannot be controlled!

EMPEROR: (screaming) *DO IT!!!!!!!*

NIST: (terrified whisper) Yes, my Lord. As you command. The war droids will be destroyed.

SCENE 3-19 INT. WAR DROID

ZEV: Wedge, we've got three Imperial Walkers trying to outflank us.

WEDGE: Order Units Six and Eight to engage and destroy. I can't believe the power of these Viper automatons.

Sound: Machine gun blaster fire.

ZEV: We're taking blaster fire from a turret gun. Unbelievable. These molecular shields eat laser fire like candy!

WEDGE: Returning fire!

ZEV: Direct hit--another Imperial Walker bites the dust. Wedge, we're doing it! We're going to bring down the Empire!!

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WEDGE: Don't get cocky, Zev. We still have to cross that service bridge to reach the Emperor's Citadel. And it's heavily guarded.

ZEV: Affirmative, Wedge. All units, make for that bridge!!

SCENE 3-20 INT. CITADEL - THRONE ROOM

Sound: The Citadel rocks from the Viper's attack.

GUARD: We're taking direct fire!! The Rebels are here!! We--
-we should retreat!!

NIST: And face the Emperor's wrath? Don't be a fool.
Besides...the Chrysalis Beasts have arrived.

SCENE 3-21 INT. WAR DROID/ EXT. CITADEL
GATES

WEDGE: All right, Zev. Let's evacuate!

Sound: War droid's door opens, and Wedge and Zev pile out into the raging battlefield.

ZEV: Right behind you, Wedge. The war droids are programmed to blast their way into the Citadel. They won't stop until their power cells drain or---

Sound: An ungodly roar bellows before them, something not like any known animal. The creature begins to stomp its way toward the Rebels.

WEDGE: ...or until they get eaten by that.

ZEV: What is it??

WEDGE: I don't know! But it's got company! RUNNNN!!!!

Sound: The two Rebels retreat from the Beast's approach.

DARK EMPIRE TRILOGY

WEDGE: Keep firing, keep firing!! How many are there?!

ZEK: I count eight. Make that nine. They're bigger than Rancors.

WEDGE: Meaner, too. Blasters only seem to make them mad! All personnel, take cover!! Let the automatons fight it out with these devils!

Sound: The automatons are taking the worst of it. The Beasts eat into armor never intended to block animal fangs.

SCENE 3-22 INT. SPACER'S BISTRO

LO: Looks like the tables have turned on the Rebs, Salla.

SALLA: (growls) Whatever those monsters are, they're cutting the Alliance into grazer hash. We've got to do something.

LO: Salla, what--

SALLA: (speaking up) Listen to me, everybody! Some friends of ours need us. I'm going to check it out. Anybody who wants to come along is more than welcome.

LUWINGO: My brother's in that Rebellion, Salla. Count me in.

SMUGGLER: You crazy?! I'm not messing with the Imps, Salla. They pay us to haul freight, not take sides!

SALLA: Yeah. But someone once told me "eventually, you got to choose sides anyway." Now who's with me?

CROWD: Yeah! Let's go!! (etc.)

SCENE 3-23 EXT. CITADEL GATES/ INT. SMUGGLER SHIP

TOM VEITCH & JOHN WHITMAN

Sound: The unequal battle continues. Now soldiers are being eaten too.

ZEV: (tired-sounding) We can't hold them off much longer, Wedge.

WEDGE: Keep firing. Call back the war droids.

ZEV: They've all been destroyed. Every last one of them.

WEDGE: LOOK OUT!!

Sound: The Creature's right on top of Wedge and Zev...and then a large smuggler ship flies overhead. The Creature is pelted with turbolaser fire.

WEDGE: Wha.... what happened?

Sound: The ship lands, and its' hatch opens.

SALLA: Need a lift?

WEDGE: Where'd you come from??

SALLA: Doesn't matter. But I think you'll like where we're going. Hurry!

WEDGE: Come on, Zev!

ZEV: (hurt in the battle) Ooh.... help me up....

WEDGE: Come on, pal!

SALLA: Move it!!

WEDGE: What about the rest of our team?

SALLA: They're being taken care of. Okay, Lo Khan, we're in. Blast out of here!

Sound: The hatch shuts, and the ship lifts skynward...or tries to...

DARK EMPIRE TRILOGY

LO: Engines at full throttle, Salla. But something's holding us back!!

Sound: The bellow of the Creature, from outside.

WEDGE: It's got hold of the ship.

SALLA: (p.o.'d) I'm getting *tired* of losing ships to the Empire!!! (opens the hatch) Hey ugly--you wanna eat something?? EAT THIS!!!

Sound: She fires her blaster right into the Creature's open mouth. Screaming, the Creature lets go and falls. The ship lifts back into the sky. The hatch closes.

SCENE 3-24 INT. CITADEL - THRONE ROOM

SHA: They're escaping!!!

NIST: I'll inform the Emperor. (activates comm) My Lord?

EMPEROR: (over comm, impatient) YES?? What is it NOW?!?

NIST: We've defeated the Rebels, my Lord. But...(braces himself)... they've escaped, with the help of some smugglers. They're heading straight for your Galaxy Gun. Shall I order the fleet to pursue them?

SCENE 3-25 INT. GALAXY GUN

EMPEROR: Let them go. Don't waste any more firepower on these scum.

NIST: (on comm, shocked) Let them... *go*, Excellency?

EMPEROR: Yes. Let them brag to their friends. They will have only a few hours to celebrate---before they all die. It is

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time to show the Rebel Alliance their day is ended. (louder)
PREPARE THE GALAXY WEAPON!!

Music: Yup, you guess it, the Imperial Theme again.

SCENE 3-26 INT. ROBIDA COLOSSUS HANGAR

HAN: Hey, watch what you're doing there!

CHEWBACCA: SHOUTS BACK AT HAN.

HAN: Careful with that stabilizer! You can't just toss it like an old brass plumbing fixture! No, no, no, not there, THERE!!! Under the aft thrusters! And watch that power cable--you wanna flood the whole docking bay?

BRAND: Princess Leia, your husband worries over his ship like a grandmother.

LEIA: I know, Brand. But Boba Fett's attack did it a lot of damage. And the *Falcon's* gotten us through more dangers than I can remember. Han's a little....

HAN: ...crazy. This whole thing is crazy. This technology is primitive!

LEIA: Han, without the help of the Ganathans, we'll never get off this planet.

CHEWBACCA: AGREES.

HAN: I know. But this equipment's the dumbest-looking stuff I've ever seen.

BRAND: I realize our steam-powered technology looks barbaric to your eyes, Solo. But it's quite serviceable, and very solid.

HAN: Yeah, like that walking droid suit you're wearing?

DARK EMPIRE TRILOGY

BRAND: This "droid suit" is a sophisticated survival system. It can keep me alive on the hottest--or the coldest--planet in the galaxy. I could live for a year in the vacuum of space. Without eating.

HAN: Very impressive. But all I want to do is get home in one piece. And to do that, I think I'll need my Arakyd missiles.

LEIA: "Arakyd missiles?"

BRAND: The *Falcon's* missiles were slightly damaged during your battle with the bounty hunter. My people had to remove them, but we've replaced the missiles with--

HAN: Some kind of antique contraption made of ceramic coils and brass rings.

BRAND: The Arakyd missiles were antiques when I was a boy, Solo.

HAN: "Antiques"?! Look who's talking!

BRAND: My Lightning Gun is a far superior weapon. Now, if you'll excuse me, I'll see to the final repairs. Hertro, adjust the ceramic coils to optimum current. This ship's power plant will double the usual charge...

LEIA: He's quite the inventor, isn't he?

HAN: Yeah. Let's just hope his inventions get us back to civilization. Come on, we'd better get ready to launch.

SCENE 3-27 INT. MILLENNIUM FALCON COCKPIT -
A SHORT TIME LATER

CHEWBACCA: RUMBLES.

TOM VEITCH & JOHN WHITMAN

HAN: I know, Chewie. These instruments are all going crazy with this new equipment. Give me a reading on the thruster output.

CHEWBACCA: GROWLS OUT THE READING.

HAN: All right. (hits intercom) Everybody sit back. Ready for a test flight.

LEIA: (over intercom) Vima and I are strapped in. Brand, if you would just have a seat--

BRAND: (over intercom) I'm afraid I do not "sit", Princess Leia. My prosthetic suit is not that flexible. I'll just attach myself to the *Falcon's* bulkhead and-- (sound: Magnet clamps on) ready.

LEIA: Oh--of course. We're set, Han.

HAN: All right Chewie, punch it!

Sound: The Falcon's engines cough and sputter.

HAN: That's not what I call a punch.

CHEWBACCA: GRUMBLES.

HAN: I got it. The Lightning Gun the Ganathans installed is draining power off the main reactor lines. Power it down for right now.

CHEWBACCA: GRUNTS IN ACKNOWLEDGMENT.

Sound: The Falcon's engines fire up as the power leaves the Lightning Gun.

HAN: That sounds better. Now--punch it!!

Sound: The Falcon does just that.

DARK EMPIRE TRILOGY

SCENE 3-28 INT. CITADEL - THRONE ROOM

NIST: I'm afraid we've failed to locate the Rebels who escaped from Byss. We suspect that, with the help of those smugglers, they've gone into hiding.

EMPEROR: (now back in the Citadel) Enough of them, Executor Nist. I told you...they do not concern me.

NIST: But my Lord, they dared to attack your HOMEWORLD!!

EMPEROR: And in return, I shall destroy THEIRS. Is my Galaxy Gun ready?

NIST: The hyperspace launcher is nearly at full power, my Lord. We await only a target.

EMPEROR: My first blow shall mark the beginning of a new era. Target the Galaxy Gun...at Pinnacle Base.

Music: The Imperial Theme.

SCENE 3-29 INT. MILLENNIUM FALCON COCKPIT

CHEWBACCA: MENTIONS SOMETHING TO HAN.

HAN: You said it, Chewie. She's got plenty of power, but she handles like a slug.

Sound: Proximity alarm goes off.

CHEWBACCA: ROARS.

HAN: Gyroscope's going crazy. We're gonna roll!

Sound: The Falcon starts barrel rolling.

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SCENE 3-30 INT. MILLENNIUM FALCON LIVING
AREA

LEIA: Hold on!

BRAND: We're upside down!

LEIA: Brand, can you reach the intercom?

BRAND: Of course.

Sound: Intercom goes on.

CHEWBACCA: (over intercom) HOWLS.

HAN: (over intercom) Get your hairy foot outta my face!
Ow! What's that--Boba Fett's helmet? Chewie!!

LEIA: Han, what's going on?

HAN: Just a little problem with the new equipment, dear.
We'll be fine as soon as I can--Chewie, move your foot--as
soon as I recalibrate the flux stabilizer.

*Sound: The Falcon goes right side up again. Han and Chewie both kiss
floor.*

HAN: There. Happy?

LEIA: Thanks, Han.

HAN: No problem. We'll let you know when we're ready to
jump to hyperspace.

LEIA: Brand, are you okay?

BRAND: I'm fine, Princess Leia. There's nothing can harm
me these days.

DARK EMPIRE TRILOGY

LEIA: Your battle with Darth Vader must have been awful.

BRAND: Yes. I had given up hope, but now---you say the Jedi have been resurrected. Such a wonder. Vader murdered so many, I can't believe the Alliance defeated him.

LEIA: Yes. But we're still locked in a struggle with the Empire. My brother Luke is a Jedi Master. He has vowed to restore the Jedi to their former glory.

BRAND: That will be difficult.

LEIA: Brand, we'll be ready to enter hyperspace soon. We should return you to the planet.

BRAND: You will need help. I have many ideas, many inventions. And I am still a Jedi. I will join you in this fight.

LEIA: Are you sure?

BRAND: I have no other choice. If you will have me, I will leave the Ganathans. The Jedi Knights **MUST** rise again!

Music: SW Fanfare.

SCENE 3-31 INT. MILLENNIUM FALCON COCKPIT

HAN: Sublight systems check out?

CHEWBACCA: GRUNTS.

HAN: Okay, did you run diagnostics on the hyperdrive?

CHEWBACCA: GRUMBLES ACKNOWLEDGMENT.

HAN: Just checking. All right, let's head for the cloud. (hits intercom) Hold on back there. We're entering the gas cloud. It's gonna be a rough ride--

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Sound: Alarm goes off.

CHEWBACCA: GROWLS WORRILNGLY.

HAN: INCOMING SHIP!!

Sound: The Slave I tears past the Falcon, unloading with everything it's got.

HAN: It's Boba Fett--

BOBA: (over comm) I told you you couldn't hide from me, Solo.

HAN: I can't believe you waited for us all this time, Fett. No bounty is worth all that much time.

BOBA: It's not about the money anymore, Solo. This time...it's personal.

CHEWBACCA: GROWLS.

HAN: Aft shields failing. I'm sick of this. We're gonna take him out. Chewie, arm the Arakyd missiles.

CHEWBACCA: ROARS.

HAN: DAMN! I forgot. Brand replaced the Arakyds with his Lightning Gun.

SCENE 3-32 INT. SLAVE I COCKPIT

BOBA: (to himself, in thought) The *Falcon* hasn't fired a single blaster. Not even those antique missiles Solo carries. I must have damaged him more than I thought. Well, that makes this all the easier. (hits comm) Just wanted to say goodbye, Solo.

HAN: (over comm) I should say the same to you.

DARK EMPIRE TRILOGY

BOBA: The chase *has* been fun. But now it's over.

HAN: You said it. Chewie--fire the Lightning Gun!!

BOBA: Wha....?

Sound: The Slave I gets FRIED by Brand's new weapon. Every console shorts out.

BOBA: (reacts in pain)

SCENE 3-33 INT. MILLENNIUM FALCON COCKPIT

HAN: YEEHAH!!

CHEWBACCA: ROARS IN EXCITEMENT.

HAN: Whatever this Lightning Gun does, it sure packs a wallop!

LEIA: (over intercom) Han, are we--

HAN: Fine, Leia. Just a little run-in with Boba Fett.

LEIA: Boba Fett? Do you need me to help?

HAN: Don't worry, Leia. We just blasted his ship into the gas cloud. He's halfway to Ganath by now. We'll let *them* deal with that viper. Okay, Leia, we're clear. Where to?

LEIA: You know, Han. The children.

HAN: Sounds good to me. Coordinates locked in....punch it, Chewie. We're going to New Alderaan.

Sound: Falcon roars into hyperspace.

Music: A short segue from "TESB", then fade out.

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END OF TAPE TWO/ SIDE ONE

TAPE TWO/ SIDE TWO

4-1 INT. JEDI EXPLORER CARGO BAY

Music: The short creepy piece again.

Sound: Somebody's got a lightsaber running.

KAM: Luke, we're approaching Pinnacle Base. We should exit hyperspace in less than---

LUKE: Quiet, Kam. Jem is practicing her lightsaber.

KAM: With that blast helmet on? (laughs) You're one tough teacher!

LUKE: I learned from the best. Ready, Jem?

JEM: (voice muffled by helmet) Ready, Luke.

LUKE: Activate the remote.

Sound: One of those pesky "seeker" balls lifts skyward and starts darting around.

JEM: I...I can hear it.

LUKE: Don't listen. Just feel it with the Force.

JEM: I...I think I understand.

Sound: The seeker zaps Jem with a light bolt.

DARK EMPIRE TRILOGY

KAM: Luke, that remote's set too high! If she's not careful, she'll---

Sound: The seeker fires several more shots, all hitting Jem. Grunting, she slashes out--and cuts the seeker in half. She turns off the lightsaber and removes the helmet.

LUKE: Good work, Jem.

KAM: I don't believe it...

JEM: I did it!

KAM: She cut that remote in half. It'll never work again.

LUKE: I knew you could do it, Jem.

JEM: I can fight. I am a trained Ysanna warrior. But this....
(turns the saber on again) it's like an extension... of myself...

LUKE: You're a natural with a lightsaber. You will make a beautif-- (audibly catches himself) a wonderful Jedi. But you should be careful. I felt a flash of anger when you hit the remote.

JEM: (turns off the saber again) Yes. My anger. I am...like you, in that way.

KAM: Is it me, or is the air getting a little too sweet in here?

LUKE: How did you know that? I never told you about my past.

JEM: It is the Force. It..... shows me things. When I look there...I see you.

KAM: (to himself, amused) Yeah, maybe I'll just go.... (opens door) check the environmental controls....(walks out, closes door)

TOM VEITCH & JOHN WHITMAN

LUKE: Yes. I sense it too. I feel like I know you...like I've known you for a thousand years.

JEM: (haltingly) I have.... the same feeling...

LUKE: (voice shaking) Jem, I...

JEM: (suddenly sweeps Luke into a passionate embrace)

Music: Tastefully sweeps into the SW End Theme for a moment.

SCENE 4-2 INT. MILLENNIUM FALCON COCKPIT

LEIA: Okay, Han. That's the settlement, just below us.

BRAND: I don't understand. No energy readings, no heat sources.... no power output at all. All I see is a thick forest and a few scattered huts.

HAN: Brand, you're looking at the most carefully disguised colony in the galaxy. New Alderaan. Shielding hides the energy output, generators and launch pads.... even the defensive weaponry. It's all hidden.

CHEWBACCA: ASKS SOMETHING.

HAN: Chewie wants to know if we should contact landing control.

LEIA: No. Maintain comm-net silence.

BRAND: Won't they be tracking us?

LEIA: We can't risk it. We don't want any stray signals picked up by Imperial probe droids.

BRAND: But.... that leaves you open to a surprise attack---

DARK EMPIRE TRILOGY

LEIA: And off-planet transmissions leave us open to discovery. And an Imperial blockade. Our safest defense is for the Empire to think this planet is nothing but one big forest-covered hunk of rock.

VIMA: Jedi, uh.... Vima senses more Jedi.

LEIA: Yes, Vima. You sense the presence of our children, Jacen and Jaina.

BRAND: (surprised) Your children?

LEIA: We had to hide them from the Emperor. They *will* be Jedi. Just like the child I carry now.

SCENE 4-3 INT. JEDI EXPLORER COCKPIT.... LET'S SAY ABOUT AN HOUR LATER..... ;^D

KAM: Luke!! LUKE!!!

LUKE: I'm here, Kam.

KAM: Oh. You disappeared on me for a while there. Thought I was gonna have to pilot the *Jedi Explorer* into Pinnacle Base myself.

LUKE: Sorry, Kam. Jem and I were, uh....

KAM: (chuckles) Yeah, spare me the details, Luke. You're not the type to kiss and tell anyway.

LUKE: (audibly red-faced) Thanks. Disengaging hyperdrive now.

Sound: Hyperdrive goes down.

TOM VEITCH & JOHN WHITMAN

KAM: Sublight engines kicking in. Right on target. Fifth moon of Da Sootcha system, just ahead. We'll arrive in Pinnacle Base in....53 seconds.

(From the comic only--Luke and Kam suddenly see Pinnacle Base's only indigenous lifeform--the large, bat-like Ixyls--flying off into space. One can imagine one of them crying out in its' tongue, "So Long, and Thanks for All the Fish."
"What's going on?" Kam asks. "It's like they're abandoning the moon!")

Sound: Alarm goes off.

KAM: What the...?!?

LUKE: Something's coming out of hyperspace!!

KAM: It's heading for the same coordinates as we are. At HIGH speed.

LUKE: Cut to point two and switch coordinates. Whatever it is, we don't want a collision.

KAM: Copy that. Changing course. Should pass underneath--
-

Sound: The mystery object thunders over them--something like sounds suspiciously like a missile at full throttle...

KAM: What was that?

LUKE: Did we get a reading on it?!?

KAM: Confirming...Length, 20 meters. Payload---100 megaton thermal detonator?!?!

LUKE: *Thermal detonator???*

KAM: Luke, that thing's a gigantic bomb!!

DARK EMPIRE TRILOGY

LUKE: And it's heading right for Pinnacle Base!!

KAM: Setting intercept course--

LUKE: (hits comm) Pinnacle Base, this is Luke Skywalker.
Pinnacle Base, do you copy?

KAM: I'm gaining on it...by the Force, it's FAST...

LUKE: PINNACLE BASE!!! No answer!!

KAM: Why wouldn't they answer?!

LUKE: Kam, we'll have to do this ourselves.

KAM: I'm on it, Luke.

LUKE: 20 seconds to impact!

KAM: Targeting lasers...

LUKE: 15 seconds to impact!!!

KAM: FIRING!!

Sound: The Jedi Explorer's weapons hit the missile dead on----and bounce right off.

KAM: Direct hit!

LUKE: (whisper) No effect...! That device is using full shields!!!

KAM: It's gonna hit the Rebel base.

LUKE: PULL UP!!! PULL UPP!!!!!!

Sound: The Jedi Explorer barely gets out of the way in time. The missile hits Pinnacle Base. And Pinnacle Base, just like a planet called Alderaan 10 years before....SHATTERS...

SCENE 4-4 EXT. NEW ALDERAAN - LAKESIDE

Sound: Tranquil. Quiet. The splashing of water. The laughing of two children. The complete opposite of before.

HAN: Leia! Leia!!

LEIA: (she sounds happy, for the first time in a *long* time.)
Jacen, Jaina--Chewie, don't let them play too near the water.

HAN: Leia??

LEIA: Over here, Han.

CHEWBACCA: GROWLS IN ANNOYANCE.

HAN: (big belly-laugh) You'd better get used to having your fur pulled, Chewie. Kids love big furry uncles.

LEIA: Han, you're just in time to eat.

HAN: Ah, the party may be over, Leia. We've got a slight problem.

LEIA: (snaps to attention) Imperials?

HAN: Nothing that firm, but our supply ship is overdue. That ship was piloted by Captain Ntthan, and Nthhan is *always* on time.

LEIA: (weary sigh) Oh, Han. All I wanted was some time alone with you and the children....

HAN: It may be nothing, Leia. Maybe Captain Ntthan is just a little behind schedule.

SCENE 4-5 INT. BAST CASTLE - PLANET VJUN -
DUNGEON

DARK EMPIRE TRILOGY

Sound: This is Darth Vader's old private refuge, now headquarters for the Emperor's Dark-siders. And one man is in the dungeon, screaming his head off. Captain Ntthan.

NIST: (over the sound of the torture droid) I'm sorry, your Excellency. We are just a little behind schedule.

EMPEROR: Never mind your excuses. Report.

NIST: My Lord, as you know, one of our Star Destroyers encountered a convoy traveling in a deserted sector. They claim they are smugglers, but the captain is a man named Ntthan. A known Rebel. We are questioning him now.

NTTHAN: NNNNAARGGGHGHGHHHHHH!!!!!!

EMPEROR: What has he told you?

NIST: His.... resistance...is most impressive, my Lord. Eventually, we had to resort to the miniature "Scarab" droids.

EMPEROR: Scarab Droids. My favorite little toys. Tell me.... have they burrowed into his flesh yet?

NIST: Yes, my Lord. And their poison has done its work. He is finally revealing to us the location of the Princess Leia. And her children.

EMPEROR: The Jedi Children!! Where are they??

NIST: (excited himself) My Lord...on a planet called New Alderaan.

SCENE 4-6 EXT. NEW ALDERAAN - PLAIN

Sound: Brand is hovering nearby.

LEIA: Han, what is it?

TOM VEITCH & JOHN WHITMAN

HAN: Could be trouble. Brand had a visual sighting of an incoming ship.

LEIA: What kind?

BRAND: I'm afraid I'm unfamiliar with your ship's markings.

HAN: I showed him models of X and Y-Wings.

BRAND: It was neither of those.

LEIA: TIE Bombers?

HAN: That's what I'm afraid of.

Sound: The mystery ship arrives in the sky.

HAN: Here it comes! Order the gunners to target and--

LEIA: HAN, WAIT!!

HAN: Leia, that may be the enemy that shot down the supply ship!

LEIA: No, Han. I can sense the pilot. It's Luke!

SCENE 4-7 SAME PLACE, SHORTLY THEREAFTER

Sound: The Jedi Explorer's hatch opens, and the Jedi trio step out.

LUKE: (coming in at a run) Han, Leia. Thank the Force you're all right....

LEIA: Luke, what's the mat--

LUKE: The children--are they--

DARK EMPIRE TRILOGY

HAN: Fine, Luke. What's wrong?

LUKE: We've just come from Pinnacle Base. The moon has been completely destroyed.

LEIA: Oh my g.....

LUKE: I think...I think all the leaders of the Alliance...are dead.

SCENE 4-8 EXT. BAST PALACE - LANDING
HANGAR

NIST: Emperor Palpatine, your Dark Jedi are assembled.

DARK JEDI: My Lord. (etc.)

EMPEROR: Excellent. Xecr Nist, you and my other Dark Jedi will be the instruments of a glorious moment for the Empire. My Galaxy Gun has destroyed the Rebel base. And now, we have the location of the last of the Jedi. You, my Dark Side warriors, will capture the Jedi alive. Then, my armored forces will destroy their final base.

DARK JEDI: (as one) With pleasure, my Lord.

Sound: The hangar doors open.

EMPEROR: At last...AT LAST!!!! The end of the Jedi Knights is at hand!!!!

SCENE 4-9 INT. NEW ALDERAAN BASE - CHAMBER

Sound: The Force is at work.

BRAND: Easy, Jem...easy...

JEM: I...I think I've got it, Brand.

TOM VEITCH & JOHN WHITMAN

BRAND: Good. Feel the Force connecting you to the boulder. Now...will it to rise.

Sound: The boulder rises, unsteadily.

JEM: (with effort) I...it's working!

BRAND: Excellent!

LEIA: (speaking low) Luke, that young woman is very open to the Force.

LUKE: (also speaking low) She's a natural Jedi.

LEIA: And....(you can hear the smile) I sense something else. Something between you two?

LUKE: (amused) Your powers are growing, Leia. Yes, I think Jem---she's very special to me.

VIMA: "Special?" All Jedi are special!

LEIA: Vima....

LUKE: Who's this?

VIMA: This one is a powerful Jedi. POWERFUL.

LEIA: Luke, this is Vima. The old Jedi we found on Nar Shaddaa.

LUKE: I feel your power, Vima. It burns in you like a flame. Faint, but steady.

LEIA: The Force drew me to her, Luke. I don't know why. I think she'll play an important role before this is all over.

VIMA: (quiet) Vima is not worthy. She hid in the dark times. Vima betrayed the Force. Vima fell from the Force--

DARK EMPIRE TRILOGY

LUKE: No, Vima. Leia is right. We need you.

LEIA: We need all the Jedi, if what you said is true. Luke, are you sure the Alliance is--

LUKE: Pinnacle Base is gone, Leia. That's for sure. Kam and I saw it blown apart by some new weapon. And yet...

LEIA: What?

LUKE: (to himself as much as Leia) When that missile came out of hyperspace, I tried to contact Pinnacle Base. And no one answered. Strange, but maybe--

HAN: Maybe nothing. We need to know for sure.

LUKE: Han. I thought you were repairing the *Falcon*.

HAN: There's no time. I don't like Brand's antique modifications, but I'm heading off-planet.

LEIA: Off-planet? I-I thought you were going to stay with the children for a while.

HAN: I want to, Leia, but look--we need to find out what's going on. Pinnacle Base has been destroyed. Wedge led a commando raid against Byss and we haven't heard from them either.

VIMA: This place must remain secret! The Jedi must be safe!

HAN: Yeah, thanks for the tip, Vima. That's why Chewie and I are taking the *Falcon* into deep space. We'll try to signal the Alliance bases within shouting distance and see what's happening. We're leaving now.

LEIA: Han, I...

HAN: Leia, we just can't sit here deaf and dumb until some Imperial probe droids stumble onto the planet!

TOM VEITCH & JOHN WHITMAN

LEIA: Be careful, Han.

HAN: We'll be fine. I just hope things are as peaceful when I get back.

Music: Another segue from TESB.

SCENE 4-10 INT. HOWLRUNNER

Sound: A Howlrunner is flying through hyperspace, followed by a whole fleet of its brothers.

NIST: This is Dark Side One to Dark Side Squadron.
Approaching attack coordinates. Prepare to exit hyperspace.

SHA: (over comm) I'm getting nothing on my scanners. No energy readings, no communication signals.

NIST: They may be shielded. Don't trust your scanners.
Trust the Dark Side. The Dark Side will lead us right to the Rebels...and to Skywalker.

SCENE 4-11 EXT. NEW ALDERAAN - PLAIN -
SUNSET

JEM: Luke, I feel sadness in you.

LUKE: I'm just thinking about Han and Leia. They spend so little time together, and now Han has left again.

JEM: Don't feel sad for him.

LUKE: Maybe you're right. At least he has a family. I've been fighting the Empire half my life. I've had no time for ordinary friendships, no time for--

DARK EMPIRE TRILOGY

JEM: Luke.... my people, the Ysanna, say that in war, as in peace, the wise man celebrates life. If he does not.... he loses balance.

LUKE: Hmm....your people are wise.

JEM: Han and Leia are Rebels too. That didn't stop them from finding each other.

LUKE: That's true, Jem. During this war, I've learned many things. I've found many things. But the greatest thing I've found so far...is you.

Sound: Unnoticed by the two lovers, a group of ships flies in the distance...

JEM: Luke, the day you appeared on Ossus, I knew...

LUKE: Wait.

JEM: What?

LUKE: Did you feel...no, nothing. For a moment, I thought I felt the Dark Side.

JEM: I felt nothing.

LUKE: It was subtle. Something I haven't felt since...(sighs) well, it's gone. But we should get indoors. Good night, Jem.

SCENE 4-12 INT. HOWLRUNNER

Sound: The Howlrunner is now on the ground, engines off.

NIST: You fool. Skywalker almost sensed your presence--

SHA: Forgive me, my Lord, I had no idea he would be so sensitive.

TOM VEITCH & JOHN WHITMAN

NIST: He is a Jedi Master. We must careful.

SHA: How can we take him alive?? Even in his sleep, he may sense our approach!

NIST: *We* will not make the first attack. I intend to use...these.

Sound: Nist opens a case. Several insectile clicks, and skitterings.

SHA: Scarab droids!

NIST: Yes. Lovely creations, aren't they? A dozen of them will burrow into Skywalker's flesh, filling him with poison and pain. Then you and one other Dark Jedi will capture Skywalker. I will take the others to steal the children.

SHA: But...what if Skywalker detects the Scarab droids?

NIST: He will not. The Emperor himself has promised...a distraction.

SCENE 4-13 INT. LUKE'S QUARTERS - LATE THAT NIGHT.....

Sound: Luke is asleep. His mind is filled with the roar of the Dark Side.

EMPEROR: (echoing in the dream) Skywalker...

LUKE: no..... no, not the Emperor...

EMPEROR: Skywalker...

LUKE: No..... I destroyed you!! You're dead!

EMPEROR: Twice you killed me. Twice have I returned. I cannot be destroyed. I am with you in your waking hours...

DARK EMPIRE TRILOGY

LUKE: NO!!!

Sound: The skittering Scarab droids crawl all over the still out-cold Luke.

EMPEROR: I am with you in your dreams...

LUKE: NO!!!!

Sound: The Scarabs are now audibly chewing into Luke's flesh.

EMPEROR: You belong to me.

MORDI: That helpless figure is the dreaded Jedi Master Luke Skywalker?

SHA: Quiet. Let the Emperor's poison do its work.

LUKE: Palpatine, I will fight you...

EMPEROR: Fight me? Skywalker...I have already won. Even now, my Scarab droids fill you with Dark Side poison.

LUKE: Scarabs...

EMPEROR: And you will once again be mine!!!

LUKE: Nnoo...no....NNAAGHH!!!

MORDI: He is awake!

SHA: His cry will bring others! Hurry! Take him quickly!

Sound: The door opens.

LEIA: What's going on--

JEM: Luke!

SHA: BY THE EMPEROR!!!

TOM VEITCH & JOHN WHITMAN

LEIA: Jem, these are Dark Siders!! What have they done to Luke?

Sound: Jem and Leia ignite their lightsabers.

JEM: I don't know. But I know what I'm going to do to THEM!!

MORDI: This little creature is mine.

SHA: Do not kill the pregnant one. The Emperor wants her children alive.

MORDI: Come, little Jedi. Show me what you have learned.

Sound: Jem slices Mordi in half.

JEM: I have learned a great deal, Dark Sider. Now for the other one--

LEIA: Jem, be careful--

SHA: Have you learned to block a blaster shot, little one--

LEIA: JEM---

Sound: Sha shoots Jem in the chest, at point blank range. Jem barely has time for one weak scream...before crashing to the ground, lifeless. Her lightsaber lands as well, extinguishing itself.

LEIA: (voice thick with tears) Dark Side scum!!!

Sound: Leia lunges at him (well, as well as a full-term pregnant woman CAN lunge) and cuts him down. Sha screams as he is disemboweled.

VIMA: Master Skywalker....?

LEIA: Vima, see if he's all right! Jem is hurt!

DARK EMPIRE TRILOGY

VIMA: The Jedi Master must live!!

LEIA: Pull those scarab droids off him, quickly!! Ohh, Jem, the blood....

JEM: (slow, raspy breaths. She's clearly not going to make it.)

LEIA: Jem, can you...

JEM: I can...feel.....the force.....

LEIA: Jem?

VIMA: Daughter...she is gone. Already, her spirit passes into the night. But the Jedi Master *must* survive.

LEIA: Luke--is he---

VIMA: A Dark Side poison. Runs deep. But the Force can heal him. Vima can heal him.

LEIA: You? But--I thought--

VIMA: Vima was healer once. Vima was *Jedi* once. For this one.... Vima must be Jedi again.

LEIA: I trust you, Vima. Heal my brother. (reignites her 'saber) I'm going to find my children.

SCENE 4-14 EXT. NEW ALDERAAN BASE -
OUTSKIRTS

Sound: Door opens.

NIST: Hurry, you fools. Bring the children quickly.

GTHULL: We have them, my Lord.

NIST: Hurry, before those accursed Jedi find us.

TOM VEITCH & JOHN WHITMAN

Sound: A lightsaber ignites.

KAM: You've already been found.

NIST: Kam Solusar. The fallen Dark Side warrior. You are no match for five Dark Jedi.

Sound: A second lightsaber ignites!!

BRAND: He is not alone.

NIST: (laughs coldly) A traitor and a machine-man? Even two lightsabers are no match for us!

BRAND: The advantage to being a machine--

Sound: A THIRD!!!!

BRAND: --is that I get to use---

Sound: A FOURTH!!!!

BRAND: -- additional arms!!

NIST: I will guard the children. Dark Siders--destroy them!!

Sound: A mass scuffle begins, but the Dark Jedi might as well be walking into a spinning set of Ginsu knives.

KAM: So much for your Dark Jedi!

NIST: You have not won yet. (bolts)

KAM: He's getting away!

NIST: (grunting under the weight of Jacen and Jaina) The children are MINE!!

BRAND: We'll never catch him in time!!

DARK EMPIRE TRILOGY

NIST: And with them, the Emperor will create new Dark Jedi. There's my ship, just ahead. I've done it!! I've taken the children!!

Sound: Two blaster bolts stop Nist dead in his tracks. He crashes to the dirt.

LEIA: (wielding the blaster, steel in her voice) NO ONE takes my children.

KAM: (runs up, panting) Leia...are the kids....

LEIA: Come here, darlings. They'll be all right, Kam.

KAM: Let's get moving. There's a squad of Imperial walkers heading this way. The Emperor's not kidding around.

LEIA: The automatic defenses will hold them off for a while. Let's find Luke.

SCENE 4-15 INT. LUKE'S QUARTERS

Sound: The Force is rising...but not very well. Vima is straining to maintain her concentration.

VIMA: Luke...Luke Skywalker...

LUKE: (groans weakly)

VIMA: Skywalker, I call you back from the darkness...

LUKE: (groans louder, stronger....)

VIMA: (effort) Poison is nothing to the Force...in the Force, no poison can harm you...hear me...I, Vima-Da-Boda, last descendant of the great Jedi Nomi Sunrider...I CALL YOU BACK!!!!

TOM VEITCH & JOHN WHITMAN

LUKE: (gives one more moan) v...vima...

VIMA: Yes, Skywalker. You have returned.

LUKE: You...you saved me.

VIMA: Vima was Jedi once. Vima was Je--

LUKE: Vima...is Jedi *now*.

Sound: Imperial AT-AT Walkers can now be heard in the far distance.

LEIA: (comes up) Luke, you're alive!

LUKE: Yes. Thanks to Vima. Where's Jem?

LEIA: Luke...she...the Dark Siders....

LUKE: (figures it out) no....oh NO!!!

KAM: Luke, I'm sorry. But we'd better move now, or the same will happen to us. Those Walkers are getting close.

Sound: The Walkers tear into the camp. Turbolaser fire, screams, etc.

LEIA: Everyone down!!

KAM: They're here!!

BRAND: RUN!!!

LEIA: Too late.

Sound: Just as the AT-AT levels on the Jedi---a laser shot from above blows its head off!!

HAN: (over comm) YEEEHAHH!!!!

LUKE: It's the *Millennium Falcon*!

DARK EMPIRE TRILOGY

Sound: The Falcon goes to town on the Walkers.

LEIA: And those look like smuggler ships!

SALLA: (over comm) We thought you people could use some help.

LEIA: Salla.... looks like you finally picked a side.

SALLA: Maybe, Princess Solo. Or maybe I just couldn't pass up a good fight.

HAN: Leia, get our people together. We've got a cargo shuttle standing by to evacuate.

LEIA: We're ready.

HAN: Come on, Salla, let's wreck some Imperial Walkers!!

Music: SW Theme plays for a moment.

SCENE 4-16 INT. MILLENNIUM FALCON LIVING
AREA, THE FOLLOWING DAY

HAN: So there Chewie and I are, drifting in deep space, broadcasting to every Alliance outpost we know, and what do we hear?

SALLA: He hears me and other smugglers talking back on a coded Alliance channel!

LEIA: Wedge, you did the right thing giving Salla our comm codes after she rescued your people from Byss.

WEDGE: It seemed like the right thing to do. But now what?? Aside from the *Falcon* and three smuggler ships, there's not much left of the Alliance. Where do we go?

TOM VEITCH & JOHN WHITMAN

LUKE: I think I can answer that.

LEIA: Luke, you should be resting.

LUKE: I'm fine, Leia. Thanks to Vima. Besides, there's no time to rest. We have to establish a new Rebel base.

LEIA: (a startled gulp) Uh oh.

WEDGE: A new base? What's left of the Rebellion could fit in my garage back on Corellia!

KAM: Perhaps, but I've got an idea. We should--

LEIA: (grunts, gasping)

HAN: Leia, are you okay?

LEIA: (effort) I.... I think my time is near.

HAN: It's okay. Luke gave us some coordinates to follow. Chewie's taking us out of hyperspace now.

Sound: The Falcon leaves hyperspace.

SCENE 4-17 INT. MILLENNIUM FALCON COCKPIT,
NOT LONG AFTER

LEIA: (groans) Are we landing soon?

HAN: We're almost there.

WEDGE: Where?

LUKE: Check the viewports.

WEDGE: It's a city in space! Luke, I've never seen anything like it!

DARK EMPIRE TRILOGY

SALLA: Must be the size of a small moon.

HAN: Luke, scanners show activity inside. Generators, ion engine output...is this place---

LUKE: (hopeful) I think we'll find someone waiting for us.

KAM: Luke, that place looks awfully familiar.

LUKE: Yes, Kam. It's where you and I first fought. It's the abandoned space city--Nespis VIII.

SCENE 4-18 INT. NESPIS VIII - HANGAR

Sound: The Falcon lands, and the hatch opens, with our heroes coming out. Leia's really hurting now.

HAN: Okay Luke, we're here.

LEIA: Whoever's waiting better know how to deliver babies...

MON MOTHMA: General Solo!!! Take Princess Leia to the infirmary!!

HAN: Wha--!!

CHEWBACCA: GROWLS IN SURPRISE.

HAN: Mon Mothma!!

MON MOTHMA: Yes, General Solo?

HAN: B--Luke, you said they were all dead!

MON MOTHMA: (laughs) We did lose a great deal of equipment, but we were able to evacuate Pinnacle Base before it's destruction. Fortunately, we received a warning

TOM VEITCH & JOHN WHITMAN

about the Emperor's new Galaxy Gun from the most surprising source...

HAN: Who?

SALLA: (purrs contentedly) Solo. You should *know* I'm full of surprises.

HAN: Good ol' Salla.

LEIA: Um.... can we talk about this later??

HAN: MAKE WAY!! WE'VE GOT A BABY TO DELIVER!!!

SCENE 4-19 INT. NESPIS VIII - MATERNITY WARD - WAITING ROOM

KAM: (pacing) What could be taking them so long?

LUKE: Patience, Kam. Leia is strong. Besides, they have Vima with them. And I think that old woman can handle anything.

KAM: Still, I wish a word.... (sigh)

Sound: Door opens.

HAN: It's over. I'm a father again!!! It's a boy!!!

Sound: From inside, a baby's first wail.

SCENE 4-20 INT. DELIVERY ROOM

Sound: Our heroes walk in.

LUKE: Leia...he's beautiful!

HAN: Yep. "Han Solo Jr." Isn't he handsome?

DARK EMPIRE TRILOGY

LEIA: (chuckles) Han. His name is Anakin. He will be a great Jedi.... like his grandfather.

HAN: Ooohhh...okay. "Anakin Solo." I like the sound of that.

Music: End Theme starts to build...

HAN: I'd like to hold him.

LEIA: There you go.

Sound: The baby gurgles in Han's arms.

HAN: Luke, I just spoke with Mon Mothma. The Alliance has established docking bays in the lower levels of the space city.

KAM: Luke--that means we can start transporting Jedi artifacts from Ossus anytime!!

LUKE: That's good news, Kam. Nespis VIII will mean a new life for the Rebellion. Just like this young boy will mean a new life for the Jedi.

LEIA: New life, new generations.... that's the hope of the future, Luke.

HAN: I've got a good feeling about this...By the Force, WE'RE GONNA WIN!!!

THE END

TOM VEITCH & JOHN WHITMAN

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Luke Skywalker
Wedge Antilles-----John Cygan
Princess Leia Organa-Solo
Mon Mothma-----Ann Patricio
Han Solo
King Empatajayos Brand-----Joe Hacker
Kam Solusar
Executor Sedriss-----Jim Ward
Chewbacca-----Himself
Emperor Palpatine
Governor Beltane-----Nick Jameson
Captain Maximillian Veers
Baddon Fass-----Andy Cowen
Salla Zend
Jem Brogan
Vima Da-Boda-----Glynnis Talken

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DARK EMPIRE TRILOGY

Sound effects by Ben Burtt

Music composed by John Williams. Performed by the
London Symphony Orchestra.

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STAR WARS: EMPIRE'S END

AUDIO ADAPTATION TRANSCRIPT

By Brandon Frost

Based on an audio adaptation of “*Star Wars: Empire’s End*,” a two-issue comic book miniseries published by Dark Horse Comics in 1995. Audio Adaptation produced by Highbridge Audio, Inc. From *Dark Empire: The Collection*, a five-CD set containing audio dramas of *Dark Empire*, *Dark Empire II*, and *Empire’s End*.

Comic version written by Tom Veitch

Audio version adapted by John Whitman

Opening and “Epilogue” scrawl adapted from the comic by Christopher McElroy

**A long time ago,
in a galaxy far, far away.....**

EMPIRE'S END

Six years after the battle of Endor, a reborn Emperor Palpatine resurrected the Empire and brought the Rebel Alliance to its knees. But with the birth of Anakin Solo, the third child of Han Solo and Princess Leia, Luke Skywalker feels a surge of new hope for the Jedi Knights.

Using his new terror weapon, the Galaxy Gun, the Emperor has once again reasserted his technological dominance over the rest of the galaxy. No planet, no space fleet, is safe from the destructive power of the Galaxy Gun's hyperdrive propelled supermissiles. In a demonstration of its power, the Pinnacle moon and the Rebel base on it was destroyed. The Alliance was forced into hiding, and numerous systems sympathetic to the Rebels have surrendered rather than face total annihilation.

Secreted on the space city of Nespis VIII, Mon Mothma and her generals vow to fight on. Troopships and heavy armor are directed against Imperial supply ports and shipyards....and, without success, against the Galaxy Gun itself. Meanwhile, Luke Skywalker and his small band of new Jedi have the critical task of protecting Leia's children, who are the future of the Jedi. More urgently, Luke and the

Jedi hope to draw the Emperor out of hiding on his capital on Byss, and into a face-to-face confrontation of light vs. darkness that will end his dark reign, and restore peace to the galaxy for all time to come...

DARK EMPIRE TRILOGY

DISC ONE/TRACK ONE

NARRATOR: Part 3: *Empire's End*.

SCENE 1-1 THE REBEL GROUP SHIP PELAGIA, IN DEEP SPACE

Music: Dagobah Swamp Music from TESB.

Sound: An X-Wing flying by.

GREEN LEADER: (over intercom) Group Ship *Pelagia*, request docking instructions.

REBEL COMM OFFICER #1: (intercom) All X-Wing squadrons, report to hanger bay four.

REBEL COMM OFFICER #2: (intercom) Ground assault commanders to the briefing room, repeat: ground assault commanders to the briefing room.

Sound: A comm signal being turned on.

GREEN LEADER: (intercom) Group ship *Pelagia*, this is Green Leader. Green Squadron is ready to come aboard.

Sound: Comm signal being turned off.

SCENE 1-2 BRIDGE OF THE GROUP SHIP PELAGIA

CAPTAIN TEKBA: Lieutenant, bring us alongside those X-Wing fighters and prepare to take them aboard.

LIEUTENANT: Affirmative, sir. Docking procedures initiated, Green Leader. You may begin the sequence...

TOM VEITCH & JOHN WHITMAN

Sound: A computer beeping.

LIEUTENANT: Captain Tekba, we're receiving a priority signal from Alliance Command!

Sound: Captain Tekba turns on the comm signal.

TEKBA: This is Captain Tekba, go ahead Alliance Command.

MON MOTHMA: (over intercom) Captain, this is Mon Mothma, long-range scans have picked up a hyperspace missile headed your way. You've got to move!

LIEUTENANT: But Admiral, we haven't finished docking procedures. These X-Wings are needed for the mission against the Imperial Shipyards.

MON MOTHMA: (urgently) You must understand, Captain. This is the same kind of missile that destroyed Pinnacle Base. It has hyperdrive capabilities and full shields. You have about ten minutes to jump to hyperspace.

TEKBA: But Mon Mothma, it takes half an hour to get this old hulk up to lightspeed.

MON MOTHMA: Then hit the missile with everything you've got. And may the Force be with you.

Sound: A proximity alarm sounds.

LIEUTENANT: Sir, there's an object coming out of hyperspace.

TEKBA: Green Leader, this is the *Pelagia*. We could use some help.

GREEN LEADER: (over intercom) We're on it, *Pelagia*.

Sound: The X-Wings fly out to intercept the missile.

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LIEUTENANT: (spotting the missile) There it is!

TEKBA: Battle stations! (battle alarm being sounded)
Tactical, bring all weapons to bear on that missile.

Sound: Heavy blasters being fired at missile.

GREEN LEADER: (over intercom) *Pelagia*, this is Green Leader. We have acquired the target. Say goodbye...

Sound: The X-wings fire at missile.

GREEN LEADER: What? Impossible! Our fire doesn't penetrate those shields! Let's hope your shields are as good, Captain Tekba.

TEKBA: TAKE EVASIVE ACTION! TAKE EVAS...

Sound: A monstrous, rumbling explosion as the giant ship is blown to bits.

SCENE 1-3 INT. BYSS PALACE -- THRONE ROOM

EMPEROR: (watching the destruction of the *Pelagia* on a viewscreen) Heh heh ha ha ha ha!!!! Excellent! Another Rebel troopship has returned to the void. The Rebel Alliance will know their day is over! Do you not agree, Xecr Nist?

XECR NIST: My Emperor, your Galaxy Gun is the ultimate terror weapon. It has given you absolute control. It has only been fired four times, and yet planets all over the galaxy are capitulating to your rule.

EMPEROR: (contempt) Capitulating! Of course! But why should I accept their surrender? Perhaps I should destroy them all, and leave...koff, koff, as I destroyed the...koff...
(violent coughing)

TOM VEITCH & JOHN WHITMAN

NIST: The Emperor is ill! Physician!

PHYSICIAN: (running up) Here, my Lord. Emperor Palpatine, I must advise you to control your emotions! Your clone body is aging far too fast. We need to take cell scrapings to test your lifespan.

EMPEROR: (breathing heavily and with much effort)
Curse that Skywalker...koff, koff... he destroyed all my best clones. I was forced to take one that was genetically unstable.

NIST: Emperor! Our spies within the Rebel Alliance have just reported the location of the Rebel Command Base—the derelict Nespis VIII space city near the Cron Drift.

PHYSICIAN: The Emperor must not be disturbed!

EMPEROR: SILENCE, YOU FOOL! koff, koff...Xecr Nist, arm my galaxy weapon. Target the coordinates of the new Rebel base. There will be no more demonstrations. It is time to end this war! NOW!

SCENE 1-4 HANGAR BAY ON NESPI8 VIII

Sound: A Rebel ship flying by.

HAN: All right, lower that launch tube. Easy! That's it... easy! Watch it! W-WATCH IT!!!

Sound: A big crash of machinery.

HAN: Oh, for crying out loud...

BRAND: May I be of some assistance, Captain Solo?

HAN: Hello, Brand. (pause) Sure, you can help if he can speed up the maintenance repairs to this scrap heap of a space station.

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BRAND: Nespis VIII does lack certain creature comforts, but at least we are currently safe from the Emperor's weapon.

HAN: I can't argue with that. And I'm finally getting the *Falcon* back into shape. Thanks for the use of the front end, Brand, but it's good to have her looking like herself again. And Chewie is sure happy to have his Arakyd missiles back.

CHEWBACCA: ROARS IN AGREEMENT.

BRAND: Hmmm, if you say so, Solo, but don't forget, my lightning gun got Boba Fett for you.

HAN: Yeah, let's hope we've seen the last of that scum. Hey, Threepio?

THREEPIO: Yes, sir!

HAN: Keep an eye on Artoo, will ya? I'm gonna show Brand the *Falcon's* new hyperdrive motivator.

THREEPIO: Of course, sir. Did you hear that, Artoo?

ARTOO: BLEEPS IN ACKNOWLEDGMENT.

THREEPIO: After I don't know how many years living adventures, I'm right back where I started—keeping you out of trouble.

ARTOO: BLEEPS INDIGNANTLY. THEN IT NOTICES SOMETHING AND TELLS THREEPIO.

THREEPIO: What's that? You're supposed to be monitoring Chewbacca's rewiring, not checking the navicomputer.

ARTOO: SUDDENLY SHRIEKS AND WHISTLES IN ALARM.

THREEPIO: (shocked) An Imperial homing beacon?

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Where?

ARTOO: POINTS IT OUT TO THREEPIO.

THREEPIO: On the *Millennium Falcon*? But who would do such a thing? No one has come near the *Falcon* but us and that Alliance technician...

TECHNICIAN JENKS: Hey, what did I hear you say, droid?

THREEPIO: Nothing, my counterpart was just...uh, well...oh, dear, I think I'd better speak to Master Han about something.

BRAND: (off in the distance with Han)
(unintelligible)...Solo. It is an impressive ship, uh, despite appearances.

HAN: Yeah, she's not much on looks, but she's got it where it counts.

JENKS: I think you need a little rewiring, droid. Let's see if my blaster can reprogram you --

HAN: (walking over) Hey, what's going on, Jenks?

THREEPIO: Master Solo! This technician attached an Imperial homing beacon to the *Falcon's* navicomputer!

HAN: Jenks, I...

BRAND: Solo! Look out!

Sound: Jenks fires his blaster at Han and Brand.

HAN: Hey!

Sound: Jenks' blaster fire hits Brand and sends the cyborg spinning back, circuits sizzling.

DARK EMPIRE TRILOGY

BRAND: *Aaaaaah!!!!*

THREEPIO: Master Brand!

CHEWBACCA: RUNS UP WITH A FURIOUS ROAR.

Sound: Chewbacca tackles down Jenks, knocking the blaster out of her hand.

HAN: Good work, Chewie. Brand...

BRAND: I am well, Solo. One of the advantages of my prosthetic body is its back-up system. I can still function.

HAN: (under his breath) It's more than I can say for that tech. (louder) Bring her here, Chewie.

CHEWBACCA: GROWLS AN AFFIRMATIVE.

HAN: OK, Jenks. How'd you get past the Alliance security screening?

JENKS: I'll tell you nothing.

HAN: No? Maybe I should just turn you over to Chewie here. You ever seen what Wookiees do to traitors? Especially *Imperial* ones?

CHEWBACCA: SNARLS IN APPROVAL.

JENKS: Doesn't matter what you do to me. The Emperor has learned the location of this space city. You're all doomed.

Sound: Alarms going off.

COMPUTER: Alert! Alert! Unidentified object approaching the station. Alert!

TOM VEITCH & JOHN WHITMAN

HAN: Chewie, lock this scum in the storage bay, then fire up the *Falcon*. I'm going to get Leia and the kids. And hurry!

CHEWBACCA: ROARS IN ACKNOWLEDGEMENT.

ARTOO: BEEPS OUT A QUESTION.

THREEPIO: Sir, what about us?

HAN: You'd better save yourself a spot on the *Falcon*, Threepio. If that alarm is what I think it is, we're going to have a lot of people looking for a lift. I'll be back.

SCENE 1-5 CONTROL ROOM ON NESPI8 VIII

Sounds: Busy control room. Background voices, alarms, computers, etc.

HAN: Leia? *Leia?*

Sound: A door opens near Han.

LUKE: Han, over here!

HAN: Luke! Where's Leia?

LUKE: She went to your quarters to get the children.

MON MOTHMA: I've given the evacuation order.

HAN: Mon Mothma, is it...?

MON MOTHMA: Yes, the Emperor has fired his Galaxy Gun at us. The projectile has just left hyperspace.

HAN: Then we've got about three minutes to evacuate. Let's go!

LUKE: Get to the *Falcon*, Han. Kam is down with the perimeter gunners. I'm going to stay here and help

DARK EMPIRE TRILOGY

coordinate our defenses.

HAN: All right, Luke. But don't stay too long.

Sound: Han rushes out the door as Luke activates the intercom.

LUKE: Kam, are you there?

KAM: (over intercom) Affirmative, Luke. I'm down at tactical. All our gunners are in place.

LUKE: Can you see it yet?

KAM: (over intercom) Not yet, wait...it just appeared on our targeting screens. Great Skies! It's coming at 10 SLU!

SCENE 1-6 NESPI8 VIII TACTICAL STATION

KAM: OK, fire up the new Kuat V-200's. These ion cannons should crack any shield known to the Empire.

Sound: Ion cannons are fired at the missile.

KAM: (shocked) This is impossible. Increase your power!

LUKE: (over intercom) Kam, what's going on?

KAM: Luke, the missile shields are holding! We're not even slowing it down!

LUKE: Keep firing. I'm sounding the collision alert.

SCENE 1-7 NESPI8 VIII HANGAR BAY

LEIA: Han, hurry!

CHEWBACCA: URGES HAN ON.

HAN: I'm running as fast as I can. Chewie, power up!

TOM VEITCH & JOHN WHITMAN

Sound: Collision alarm is sounded.

LEIA: That's the collision alert.

LUKE: (over comm system) All sections, brace for impact. The missile is inbound, and targeted at the hangar bay. Brace for impact!

Sound: The children (Jacen, Jaina & Anakin) wail in terror.

LEIA: The hangar bay?

HAN: That's us.

Sound: The missile smashes through the metal wall into the hangar bay and over Han and Leia's head.

LEIA: Come on, Han, move it!

HAN: It's too late, we're going to be space dust --

Sound: Han and Leia scream as the missile flies into a ship in the hangar bay, coming to a complete stop. Machinery falls everywhere from the missile wake and impact... but the bay stays intact.

HAN: (shocked) We're alive!

LEIA: The children -- are they, are they...

HAN: They're fine, just-just scared. But then, so am I.

LEIA: What happened?

HAN: (looking at where the missile landed) Ha HA! The missile crashed without exploding! It's stuck in the hull of that cruiser like a spear. Ha ha ha!!!

LEIA: Do you think it's got a delayed-firing mechanism?

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HAN: I don't know. Let's get a tech crew down here on the double.

SCENE 1-8 INT. BYSS PALACE THRONE ROOM

EMPEROR: (enraged) FOOL! IMBECILE! I will flay the skin from your pathetic bones!

UMAK LETH: Forgive me, my Emperor --

EMPEROR: This was to be my moment of triumph. You are my chief engineer. Your incompetence has allowed the Rebels to escape. If I did not need you to operate my Galaxy Gun, I would have you destroyed! I *WILL* HAVE YOU DESTROYED!!!!

LETH: I assure you, sire, others are at fault. Defective cron chips in the timing mechanisms from Bonadan. They should be punished.

EMPEROR: THE RESPONSIBILITY IS YOURS!!!! You have three days to put the galaxy weapon's systems in order. When we resume firing, the gun will work perfectly, or you will die, koff -- (more violent coughing)

PHYSICIAN: Excellency, please calm yourself.

EMPEROR: (regaining his breath slowly) You....have the results of your tests, physician?

PHYSICIAN: Yes, sire. The cell tests indicate that your present clone body is in accelerated decay. As you know, there are no other clones available. Sire, calmness can lengthen the lifespan of the clone, anger will only hasten its destruction.

EMPEROR: (growls) That is a fate I will not suffer. Yessss. I will put aside thoughts of the Rebel Alliance, for now. It is time to restore my line of clones to ensure the

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future of my rule. Xecr Nist!

NIST: Yes, my master.

EMPEROR: In order to create clones strong enough to contain my power, I must have the genetic material of a Jedi.

NIST: Yes, my Lord.

EMPEROR: Take your men to the planet Ossus. My spies have informed me that Skywalker found savages on the planet who are descended from Jedi. Capture some specimens for me, and take them to Vader's old fortress on the planet Vjun. In the meantime, I will journey to my place of power, to strengthen my flesh for the work ahead.

NIST: It will be done, Majesty. And what of the descendants of Vader?

EMPEROR: All in good time, my servant. All in good time. Now, prepare my flagship.

Music: Dagobah swamp cues from TESB.

SCENE 1-9 REMNANTS OF THE REBEL FLEET ON
THE GALACTIC RIM

Sound: A starship flies by.

COMM OFFICER: (over intercom) Cruiser *Republic*, this is the freighter *White Dwarf*. Requesting permission to join the fleet.

HAN: (over intercom) Affirmative, *White Dwarf*. Take up a position at coordinates one-zero-three, and await new coordinates.

Sound: Comm system being turned off.

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SCENE 1-10 BRIDGE OF REBEL CRUISER REPUBLIC

HAN: Well, that's the last of the freighters. We've got about ninety-five percent of the Alliance fleet cruising the Galactic Rim, and going nowhere fast.

MON MOTHMA: We've been here before, General Solo.

HAN: Yeah, sure, Mon Mothma, but never with a Galaxy Gun waiting for a shot at us.

LUKE: We're sitting Mynocks out here. We must find a planet where we can remain secure until the hyperspace weapon is destroyed.

KAM: What about Ossus, Luke? Even if we are discovered, the Emperor won't blow it up. He'll want to preserve its Jedi artifacts.

HAN: You're crazy, Kam. He tried to blow up Nespis without even thinking.

LUKE: I agree with Kam. Palpatine may hope to learn Jedi secrets on Ossus, and I need to confer with Chief Okko. To tell him about Jem.

LEIA: Luke, I know how much she meant to you.

LUKE: And still means to me, Leia. She's still here, in the Force. (pauses) Then it's settled. Kam Solusar, Brand, and I will leave for Ossus and search for a suitable base.

HAN: Hold on, Luke, what about us?

LUKE: You and Leia should take your children to safe harbor, Han. The Emperor has already tried to kidnap them once. I'm sure he'll try again.

TOM VEITCH & JOHN WHITMAN

LEIA: The Alliance needs us, Luke.

LUKE: The future of the Alliance rests with your children, Leia. You've seen that as well as I. Take them somewhere safe.

HAN: If there's gonna be a fight, I'll feel pretty small being the only soldier who's safe.

MON MOTHMA: Each of us has a duty, General Solo. Yours is to protect your children. I agree with Commander Skywalker. I am ordering the fleet dispersed to every part of the galaxy. We can no longer make a single target for the Emperor's weapon.

HAN: (reluctantly) All right. But we'd better maintain a central communications link with one star cruiser in deep space.

MON MOTHMA: Very well. It's settled. And may the Force be with us all.

Music: Imperial music cue from Empire.

SCENE 1-11 OSSUS NEAR THE YSANNA VILLAGE

Sounds: Imperial equipment, and people being herded onto transports.

NIST: Hurry! Get those savages aboard.

STORMTROOPER: Move it, you filth!

CHIEF OKKO: No! No, you have no right to do this!
(Sound of Okko using the Force) I will not let you.
(sounding dreamy and hazy) You must let me go.

STORMTROOPER: I.... must let you.... go.

NIST: Fool! (Punches Okko) The savage was using a Jedi

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mind trick on you. But his powers are weak. (Hits Okko again) He is no match for the Dark Side.

OKKO: Unh! My friend.... Skywalker...will deal with you.

NIST: Perhaps. But he will be too late to save your skin. Get him and the other Jedi onboard the ship. We'll put them on ice and take them to Vjun.

Sound: An Imperial transport taking off.

SCENE 1-12 OSSUS, NEAR THE YSANNA VILLAGE,
LATER

Sound: Luke, Kam, and Brand walk (hover, in Brand's case) toward the village.

BRAND: So, this is the fabled planet Ossus.

KAM: Yes, Luke and I were here before.

LUKE: We encountered a group of primitive humans who were Force-sensitive.

BRAND: It seems.... so desolate.

LUKE: Too desolate, Brand. Even for this place. Come on. (calling out) Hello!

KAM: (calling out as well) Hello?

BRAND: (ditto) Hello?

Sound: Only the echoes of their voices, and then sounds of a faint weeping.

BRAND: Luke, my sensors indicate the presence of a woman.

TOM VEITCH & JOHN WHITMAN

LUKE: I sense her in the Force, Brand. She's hiding in those rocks.

Sound: The weeping gets louder as they get closer.

BRAND: She is young.

KAM: What's wrong with her? Is she injured?

LUKE: (gently) Excuse us. Are you all right?

YSANNA WOMAN: Go away.... (sniffing)

LUKE: We are friends of the Ysanna. We are...

WOMAN: I know who you are, Jedi Skywalker! You are the curse of my people.

LUKE: What happened? Why are you hiding? Where are the others?

WOMAN: Everyone is hiding. You bring sorrow to the Ysanna, Skywalker. Your first visit brought the Empire, then you took Jem, the jewel of our tribe, and she's dead, and now, oh.... (trails off into tears).

LUKE: What? What has happened here? Where is Okko?

WOMAN: The Empire returned. They took Okko, and some of the others. They dragged them off into their ships, and flew away.

BRAND: This does not bode well.

LUKE: Okko, was he alive?

WOMAN: I don't know. They have turned him into...ice.

KAM: (foreboding) Carbonite.

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LUKE: (contempt) An Imperial specialty.

BRAND: I do not understand. Why would the Emperor want these people and why go through the trouble of freezing them in carbonite?

LUKE: Remember, Brand, they're Force-sensitive. Maybe the Emperor wants to experiment, or maybe...by the Force!

KAM: What?

LUKE: Clones! He wants to make more clones of himself! And he's using them to do it.

BRAND: It is possible. The technology exists to combine their cell structure with his own.

LUKE: But where, where would he take them? I, I destroyed all the cloning tanks on Byss, I'm sure of it! There's no equipment there. Where else could he go?

KAM: Cloning technology. Luke, I know a place, from my time as a Dark Jedi. It's called...

SCENE 1-13 BAST CASTLE, THE PLANET VJUN

NIST: Bast Castle. I have waited a long time to own this.

DARK JEDI, NIST'S SECOND IN COMMAND: Why, Xecr Nist? This planet's a wasteland.

NIST: But this fortress is a place of Dark Side power. My predecessor, Executor Sedriss, possessed it, and before him it was the personal stronghold of Darth Vader himself! Behold his likeness.

DARK JEDI: If that great statue was any indication, Vader was a terrifying figure indeed.

TOM VEITCH & JOHN WHITMAN

NIST: And now I stand in his place at the right hand of the Emperor himself. Nothing can stop me!

Sound: As if on cue, a ship flies overhead.

NIST: Eh? A ship? Could it have followed us?

DARK JEDI: (darkly) No matter. Our troops will destroy it.

NIST: No. The Jedi Skywalker's onboard that ship! I sense it. Order the gunners to demonstrate our firepower, but allow them to land. Then assemble ten Dark Jedi and meet me back here. Go!

SCENE 1-14 INTERIOR OF JEDI EXPLORER

Sounds: Jedi Explorer taking laser hits, but holding together.

KAM: Shields holding, Luke, but this fire is intense. I don't think this is such a good idea.

LUKE: I owe it to Okko, Kam. And to Jem's memory. Brand, can you handle the weapon systems?

BRAND: I believe I can plug directly into the targeting computer, and...

Sound: A click as Brand interfaces with the computer, and then numerous blaster shots are heard culminating in an explosion.

KAM: Good shooting!

LUKE: I'm taking us in.

Sound: The Jedi Explorer closes in on Bast Castle.

KAM: They're lowering the blast wall!

DARK EMPIRE TRILOGY

LUKE: Brand!

Sound: Quick blaster fire from Jedi Explorer. Then, sounds of the repulsorlifts kicking in and the Explorer landing in the castle's landing bay.

SCENE 1-15 INTERIOR HANGAR BAY OF BAST
CASTLE

NIST: Skywalker!

KAM: Looks like we were expected, Luke.

Sound: Nist ignites his lightsaber.

NIST: Here, in the very shadow of your father's memory, I, Xecr Nist, will destroy you!

Sound: Luke ignites his own lightsaber.

LUKE: It's been tried before.

Sound: Nist attacks Luke— their lightsabers clash. Other lightsabers of Brand, Kam, and the Dark Jedi ignited and fighting continuously.

DARK JEDI: You are a mere machine, no match for the Dark Side.

BRAND: Vader destroyed my body, Darksider, but he could never touch my spirit!

Sounds: Furious lightsaber combat between the Jedi and Dark Jedi.

NIST: RRRRRRRRRRRR!!!!!!

LUKE: Brand, watch out! Behind you!

Sounds: The Dark Jedi's lightsabers cut into the already damaged Brand.

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BRAND: *Aaaaaaaaabbbbbb!!!!*

KAM: (sounding desperate) Luke, there're too many of them!

NIST: (darkly) My dark Jedi will deal with that traitor, Solusar, Skywalker. You are mine. The Emperor has promised me an entire star system if I bring him your dead body.

LUKE: And what has he promised you when you lose?

NIST: I...unh...WILL...unh...NOT...unh...LOSE!!!

Sound: A furious exchange of lightsaber blows.

NIST: Unh... Ah... Our lightsabers are locked, and your strength is no match for mine, Skywalker. I...(grunting with effort)...will...unh...BREAK YOU!!!

LUKE: You are too concerned with power, Nist. You don't understand the subtleties of the Force.

Sound: Luke steps back and turns off his lightsaber, and Nist stumbles forward to land flat on his face, knocking himself out cold.

LUKE: Such as when to shut the power off.

KAM: (distant) Luke! Help!

LUKE: Kam!

SCENE 1-16 INTERIOR BAST CASTLE HANGAR BAY,
KAM'S SIDE OF THE BATTLE

Sounds: Kam furiously struggles with the Dark Jedi.

KAM: Luke, lend a guy a hand, will ya?

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LUKE: (distant) Kam, hold on!

KAM: Gaaaa!

Sound: Kam is being overwhelmed by multiple attackers.

KAM: Back off, Dark Side scum! Daaaa!

DARK JEDI: You cannot fight us all, Solusar. Surrender!

KAM: Never!

DARK JEDI: (darkly) Very well.

Sound: Kam screams in pain from a glancing blow.

SCENE 1-17 INTERIOR BAST CASTLE HANGAR BAY,
LUKE'S SIDE OF THE BATTLE

LUKE: I'll never make it in time!

DARK JEDI: (distant) We have you, Solusar. At the very foot of Darth Vader's monument, you will die!

LUKE: But maybe Darth Vader can do some good after all -
-

Sound: Luke uses the Force on the statue.

DARK JEDI: Destroy him!

Sound: The statue of Vader begins to fall—right on top of the Dark Jedi!

DARK JEDI: Wait, look out! The statue!

Sound: The statue lands on top of the screaming Dark Jedi, crushing them.

TOM VEITCH & JOHN WHITMAN

KAM: Thanks, Luke.

LUKE: Kam! See if Brand is...

BRAND: I am...damaged, but I am still alive.

KAM: Brand, you got more lives than a bounty hunter!

BRAND: Perhaps I am determined to see this battle to the end.

LUKE: It's going to end soon, Brand, I promise. The two of you look for Okko and the others and unfreeze them.
(turns to Nist) You. Xecr Nist. You're a prisoner of the New Republic.

NIST: You may imprison me, Skywalker, but the Emperor is one who cannot be defeated.

LUKE: On the contrary, Nist. In the name of all the Jedi, I am the one who *will* defeat him.

Music: Dagobah swamp cue.

END OF TRACK 1

DISK 1 TRACK 2

SCENE 2-1 THE PLANET KORRIBAN, IN THE
VALLEY OF THE DARK LORDS

Music: Dagobah swamp music.

Sound: The Emperor and his followers' walk over rocky debris towards the ancient tomb of the Dark Lords.

DARK EMPIRE TRILOGY

T'IAZ: Emperor, you move so slowly. Are you well?

EMPEROR: I am well, Dark Side Adept, T'iaz. This is a place full of memories. It has been ten years since I last stood on the Sith world of Korriban, in the Valley of the Dark Lords. This place...these ancient temples.... are still potent with power. It can halt the decay of my last clone body. Come. (gestures towards opening) In there.

SCENE 2-1 INSIDE SITH TEMPLE ON KORRIBAN

Sounds: Water drips in the large temple, making echoes.

T'IAZ: (voice echoes in the temple) Excellency? The Dark Side fills this place. These ancient coffins, the mummies, are they...?

EMPEROR: Yes, T'iaz. These great ancients are preserved by the power that made them outcasts. They are Dark Lords of ages past. Listen. Listen with the Dark Side, and you will hear them speak.

Sound: A hissing noise, getting louder, and louder, and low whispers are heard beneath.

DARK LORD #1: Have you come to join us?

DARK LORD #2: We await you.

EMPEROR: No! Once before, you restored my aging clone body. I need healing. Now!

DARK LORD #3: We cannot help.

DARK LORD #1: This decaying flesh you wear cannot be saved.

DARK LORD #4: Cooooome, join usssss!

DARK LORD #5: Enter the world of darkness beyond all dying.

EMPEROR: No! You are long dead. But I rule the galaxy forever! If you cannot heal this clone, then help me find the Jedi children. I must take over the body of the youngest Skywalker child so that I may live.

DARK LORD #1: Very well, Palpatine.

DARK LORD #6: Gaze into this. (Indicating the Oracle Stone in the hands of one of the Sith mummies)

DARK LORD #7: You will find what you seek.

SCENE 2-3 DEEP SPACE NEAR ONDERON
ONBOARD THE MILLENNIUM FALCON

Sounds: The Falcon in hyperspace, and the children (Jacen, Jaina, and Anakin) playing in the background.

HAN: All right. Leia, we've laid in a course for the safe world. We'll be at the planet Onderon soon.

LEIA: Onderon. I've wanted to visit that place. According to these old Jedi books, the Jedi fought a great battle there centuries ago.

HAN: (impatient) Yeah, well I know you need to learn more about the Force, Leia, but can you put away your Jedi homework and help me with the kids?

LEIA: This book is important, Han. It teaches the ancient Jedi Battle Meditation techniques. Threepio is helping me translate it.

THREEPIO: Oh, it's really nothing, your Highness. A mere phonic variant of the sub-Cretarian dialect. There are

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much more difficult languages, such as...

HAN: Yeah, yeah, yeah, that's great, but Chewie's about to kick down the sub-lights, and we need to secure the kids for our rough landing.

LEIA: (laughing softly) Right behind you, Han. Jacen, Jaina, come on.

THREEPIO: Oh, it will be so good to stay on a safe world. I wish Artoo could have come. I just know he'll end up blown to pieces in another ridiculous battle.

LEIA: Come here, Anakin (picking him up). That's my boy.

Sound: Leia feels a tremor in the Force.

LEIA: What was that?

HAN: What was what?

Sound: Leia hears it again, except it is louder and stays longer.

LEIA: Don't you feel it? He is near. I feel his Dark Side power.

HAN: He who? There aren't any ships around here.

THREEPIO: Your Highness, the sensors aren't picking up anything.

LEIA: The Emperor's here! He wants us! He wants our children!

HAN: Blast that scum! If I ever get him in my sights, he's rancor food!

LEIA: I don't need a blaster. Not with what I've just learned about Jedi Battle Meditation.

SCENE 2-4 THRONES ROOM ONBOARD ECLIPSE II

EMPEROR: Yessss! Yessss! Excellent! She is strong to have sensed my presence. But still they are blind!

T'IAZ: My Lord, the *Millennium Falcon* is headed right for us. They seem unaware of our presence. Just as you predicted.

EMPEROR: Of course, T'iaz. Through the Dark Side, I am blinding their sensors. The daughter of Vader feels my presence, but she does not know (sound of Light Side rising against the Emperor), she cannot.... Ehhh? What's this? GAAAAaaaaaaa....kkk!

Sound: Choking, the Emperor falls to the floor in pain.

T'IAZ: My Lord!

EMPEROR: Aaaaahhh.... fierce Jedi. She's learned old Jedi tricks! TAKE THE SHIP! TRACTOR BEAM ON!!!

SCENE 2-5 ONBOARD THE MILLENNIUM FALCON

Sound: A proximity alarm goes off in the Falcon's cockpit.

CHEWBACCA: ROARS A WARNING.

HAN: What?

THREEPIO: What's going on?

HAN: A Super Star Destroyer just appeared out of nowhere, it's the biggest ship I ever saw, and we're on a collision course!

Sound: A deep rumble as the huge ship hits the Falcon with its' tractor beam, and alarms go off all over the pirate starship.

HAN: Veer away, Chewie!

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CHEWBACCA: A DEJECTED REPORT OF FAILURE.

HAN: Yeah, I felt it. I hate tractor beams. Can we break it?

CHEWBACCA: GROWLS NEGATIVELY.

LEIA: It's too strong!

HAN: Sublight engines are gonna shake apart!

CHEWBACCA: ROARS A SUGGESTION.

HAN: Yeah, Chewie, that might be our only chance. All right, let's give it a try.

SCENE 2-6 THRONES ROOM ON ECLIPSE II

T'IAZ: My Lord, we have the ship in our tractor beam. The *Millennium Falcon* is fighting against it, but without hope. Your prisoners will be aboard in moments.

EMPEROR: Do not underestimate them, T'iaz. The Force is strong with them.

T'IAZ: My Lord, I assure you that...(computer panel beeps) What's this? The *Falcon* is coming around! She's headed right for us!

EMPEROR: I warned you, T'iaz!

Sound: Proximity alarm sounds on Eclipse II.

T'IAZ: Shields up!

SCENE 2-7 ONBOARD THE MILLENNIUM FALCON

Sounds: The Falcon rattles within the grasp of the tractor beam.

TOM VEITCH & JOHN WHITMAN

LEIA: Han, the destroyer's raising her shields!

HAN: Not fast enough, Princess. Chewie, fire the Arakyd missiles.

Sound: The Falcon fires.

CHEWBACCA: ROARS AN AFFIRMATIVE.

Sound: Missiles zoom in on their target, and explode upon impact.

CHEWBACCA: GRUNTS EXCITEDLY.

LEIA: You did it!

HAN: Direct hit! Tractor beams down!

Sound: Debris and shrapnel hits the hull of the Falcon, and Han is thrown from his seat.

HAN: Aaaahhh!

CHEWBACCA: GROWLS IN FRUSTRATION.

LEIA: What was that?

HAN: I don't know, I think we caught some shrapnel off the explosion.

LEIA: Get us out of here, and into hyperspace. Get us as far away from the Emperor as you can.

Sound: Han flips several switches.

HAN: Nothin' I'd like better, but no can do, Princess. That shrapnel punctured the hyperdrive motivator. Chewie, return to our original course. Let's hope that Super Star Destroyer is as slow as it is big.

Sound: The Falcon shoots off using its sublight engines.

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SCENE 2-8 THRONE ROOM ONBOARD THE ECLIPSE II

T'IAZ: My Emperor, they're escaping!

EMPEROR: You lost them, T'iaz? Did I not warn you?
Must I do *everything* myself?

T'IAZ: Forgive me, my Lord.

EMPEROR: It is of no consequence. I have foreseen their
destination. That is where my new body awaits me. Set your
course for the planet Onderon.

Music: Imperial March cue from TESB.

SCENE 2-9 THE PLANET ONDERON; THE MILLENNIUM FALCON

*Sounds: Ambient planet noises, and Chewbacca and Han make repairs
on the outside of the Falcon.*

HAN: Chewie, how long?

CHEWBACCA: GRUNTS IN ANNOYANCE.

HAN: I'm not nagging, but we've got a Super Star
Destroyer on our tail. If we don't get off this planet soon, we
may get buried here.

LEIA: Han, I found friends.

*Sounds: A large group of excited people approach, chattering to each
other.*

KIRA: Greetings!

HAN: What?

TOM VEITCH & JOHN WHITMAN

THREEPIO: Oh, I tried to caution her, Master Solo. These people look like a nasty, brutish lot!

LEIA: (laughing) Things aren't always what they seem, Threepio. This man has offered to hide us. He is Force-sensitive.

KIRA: I am Modon Kira. My ancestors have fought beside the Jedi since the time of Freedon Nadd, over forty centuries ago.

HAN: Nice to know you. No offense, but how do I know we can trust you?

KIRA: Perhaps this information will help. You are too late. The Emperor's ship has already achieved orbit around the planet. They are waiting for you to make your escape.

LEIA: Han, if that's true...

HAN: We'll never get past their scanners. But maybe we could fake them out. Chewie could make a break for it in the *Falcon*; make the Emperor think that we've left the planet.

LEIA: The Emperor can sense my presence, and the presence of our children. He won't be fooled for long. But it might buy us some time.

KIRA: While I take you to a place of safety.

HAN: Why are you helping us?

KIRA: Centuries ago, Master Arca saved my people from the Dark Side. It is a debt that must be repaid. If, my life or death can save you, I will. Come.

SCENE 2-10 THRONE ROOM OBOARD ECLIPSE II

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Sound: The Falcon zooms by the Eclipse II. Warning alarms are sounding onboard the Imperial ship.

T'IAZ: Sire, we have a ship leaving the atmosphere. It's the *Millennium Falcon*.

EMPEROR: Track it, T'iaz! Bring it onboard.

T'IAZ: Energizing tractor beam. Ready to lock on...

EMPEROR: Wait!

T'IAZ: My Lord?

EMPEROR: Heh heh heh heh... Do they think I am a fool? Let it go.

T'IAZ: But Sire...

EMPEROR: My new body is on the planet below. Prepare my shuttlecraft.

T'IAZ: But, Excellency, that would be too dangerous. You must stay aboard the flagship. We'll go down and capture the Jedi.

EMPEROR: Dangerous? I have nothing to fear. In the entire galaxy, there is nothing that *I* fear. It is they who fear *me*.

Music: Imperial music cue from TESB.

SCENE 2-11 ONDERON JUNGLE

Sounds: Several people (and one droid) ride on giant beasts clomping along through a jungle. Appropriate jungle sounds.

THREEPIO: Oh! Oh! Oh! My poor, pulverized servos! I thought we were going someplace safe. Riding this monster

TOM VEITCH & JOHN WHITMAN

is scrambling my circuits.

KIRA: These Boma Beasts are the only creatures who can travel through these jungles.

THREEPIO: No wonder.

Sound: A branch or something hits Threepio.

THREEPIO: Oh! I would much rather ride in a Jawa's sandcrawler than on the back of this awful creature.

HAN: Yeah, but would you trade this creature for an Imperial dungeon?

THREEPIO: (humbled) I see your point, sir.

LEIA: The children don't seem to mind the trip, they're asleep already. How much farther, Modon Kira?

KIRA: Not far. My fortress is just ahead. It is far away from any civilized territory.

THREEPIO: (sarcastically) Oh, that's certain.

KIRA: And far from prying eyes. No one can track us here.

HAN: I hope that plan doesn't backfire on us. Our friends still need to find us.

LEIA: Luke will know where to look.

HAN: (skeptical) Ahhh, as long as Chewie got through safely.

KIRA: Come, my fortress is just ahead. Hiya! (snaps the reins of his beast)

Sound: The beasts grunt as they pick up the pace.

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THREEPIO: (frantic) Oh, my! I should have traded places with Artoo! Wooooooo!!!!

SCENE 2-12 HANGAR BAY OF REBEL FLEET TRANSPORT VINDICATOR

Sounds: Ambient hangar sounds. Artoo wheels over to Luke.

ARTOO: BEEPS A GREETING.

LUKE: Good, Artoo. You're here. And there are Kam and Brand.

Sound: Kam and Brand (well, just Kam, Brand floats) walk over to Luke.

KAM: What's going on, Luke? We got your message to meet at the hangar deck.

BRAND: Yes, Skywalker. What is going on?

LUKE: Chewbacca just arrived in the *Millennium Falcon*. We've got to hurry.

KAM: What is it?

LUKE: He brought incredible news. It could be a disaster... or our greatest opportunity. A chance to capture the Emperor!

BRAND: (shocked) Capture him?

LUKE: Come on. We need to assemble as many assault ships as we can. I'll fill you in while we prep the *Jedi Explorer*.

ARTOO: BEEPS OUT A QUESTION.

LUKE: Of course you're coming along, Artoo. In fact, you're the key to my plan...

SCENE 2-13 BRIDGE OF THE ECLIPSE II

T'IAZ: You. Status report.

IMPERIAL OFFICER: We are maintaining low orbit, and continuing our scan of the planet.

T'IAZ: Any sign of the Emperor?

IMPERIAL OFFICER: We tracked his vital signs through the city, but we lost him when he entered the dense jungle.

T'IAZ: Hmm, very well. Maintain...

Sound: An explosion cuts him off. Alarms start wailing.

T'IAZ: By the Dark Side, what was that?

IMPERIAL OFFICER: We...we're under attack!

T'IAZ: Ridiculous. Who would dare attack the Emperor's flagship?

IMPERIAL OFFICER: I show thirty Rebel ships. One of them is the *Millennium Falcon*. And the other is the *Jedi Explorer*.

SCENE 2-14 ONBOARD THE MILLENNIUM
FALCON

Sound: The Falcon flying by.

KAM: Yeeehaaaaa!!!! We caught them by surprise, Luke! But our ships aren't doing much damage. That ship's the size of a planet!

LUKE: (over intercom) We don't need to destroy them, Kam. Just distract them.

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KAM: Is the Emperor onboard?

LUKE: (pauses) No, but I sense that he's close. Kam, he's on the planet!

BRAND: (over intercom) Then speed is of the essence.

KAM: Affirmative. We'll take care of things up here, Luke. You go get your sister.

Sound: The Jedi Explorer veers off towards the planet.

SCENE 2-15 BRIDGE OF ECLIPSE II

IMPERIAL OFFICER: Our shields are holding, Lord T'iaz. But one ship has gotten through.

T'IAZ: The *Millennium Falcon*. Track that ship.

IMPERIAL OFFICER: It's on a collision course. It's headed right for the bridge! Look out!

Sound: A near scream of engines as the Falcon buzzes the bridge.

T'IAZ: It missed us.

IMPERIAL OFFICER: (relieved) Thank the Dark Side.

T'IAZ: Track it! *Track it!* I want that ship!

IMPERIAL OFFICER: It's gone, my Lord.

T'IAZ: (frustrated) It must have escaped in the confusion of battle. Continue firing at will at all Rebel ships. But keep an eye out for the *Millennium Falcon*. I know it's close.

SCENE 2-16 INTERIOR OF MILLENNIUM FALCON LATCHED ON HULL OF ECLIPSE II

TOM VEITCH & JOHN WHITMAN

KAM: (whispers) I never want to get this close to a Star Destroyer again.

CHEWBACCA: GRUNTS SOFTLY.

KAM: Shhhh. Too much noise, and their sensors will pick it up. OK, let's get to work.

Sound: A fusion cutter comes to life, quietly slicing a small hole (big enough for the Rebels) through the hull of the Eclipse II.

ARTOO: BEEPS A QUIET QUESTION AT KAM.

KAM: (whisper) Not yet, Artoo. First, we cut through the ship's hull. Then, we'll hook you up to her navicomputer. At least, that's what's *supposed* to happen. Ready, Chewie?

SCENE 2-17 MODON KIRA'S JUNGLE FORTRESS,
DOORWAY

Sound: Heavy, booming pounding at the door.

KIRA: (opens door) Who disturbs the home of Modon Kira?

EMPEROR: I do. A poor pilgrim on my way to the Shatoon Monastery, ten kilometers away. I seek shelter for the night.

KIRA: Begone! I have visitors already, and (sound of Dark Force rising) cannot...

EMPEROR: You cannot resist.

KIRA: I...cannot....

EMPEROR: Visitors indeed. Take me to them.

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KIRA: I...cannot...resist...

SCENE 2-18 MODON KIRA'S JUNGLE FORTRESS,
INTERIOR

Sound: The Jedi children playing.

LEIA: All right, Threepio. Continue.

THREEPIO: But your Highness, shouldn't we wait for Master Solo?

LEIA: (amused) Somehow, I think he's had enough of my reading these Jedi books, go ahead.

THREEPIO: Very well. This section tells of a great Jedi Knight named Nomi Sunrider, who learned the art of Battle Meditation during the conflict of...

Sound: A door is opened loudly.

LEIA: (surprised) Oh -- Modon Kira, you startled me.

KIRA: (voice strained) Forgive me...

LEIA: That's all right. It wasn't...

KIRA: (even more strained) Forgive me! I.... could not.... resist...

LEIA: (confused) What?

EMPEROR: He could not resist...*me*.

THREEPIO: Your Highness!!!

LEIA: No! No, not you already!

EMPEROR: Oh, but yessss, little Jedi. We meet again. I

TOM VEITCH & JOHN WHITMAN

am so anxious to meet your children. Won't you introduce me?

LEIA: Threepio, get the children. Get behind me.

EMPEROR: No, little Jedi. There is no hope for you. This time I will not be so gentle!

Sound: The Emperor summons the Dark Side and shoots Force lightning at Leia.

LEIA: AAAAAAAAAaaaaahhhhhb!!!!

SCENE 2-19 INTERIOR OF MILLENNIUM FALCON
ATTACHED TO ECLIPSE II

Sound: The fusion cutter crackles with energy and finishes cutting through the hole in the Eclipse II.

KAM: There!

CHEWBACCA: A CELEBRATORY ROAR.

KAM: OK, we're in. Chewbacca, can you squeeze through?

CHEWBACCA: GRUNTS AN AFFIRMATIVE.

KAM: Come on. Come on... (straining to pull Chewbacca through).

Sound: Chewbacca comes through, but lands on Kam.

CHEWBACCA: YELLS AS HE FALLS.

KAM: Oooofff!!! Sorry about that. At least we're in.

ARTOO: WHISTLES "WAIT FOR ME!"

KAM: Don't worry, Artoo. You're the brains of this

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operation. We're not leaving you behind. Chewie, can you reach him?

CHEWBACCA: GROWLS IN THE AFFIRMATIVE.

Sound: Chewbacca grabs Artoo and lowers him to the Eclipse's deck.

ARTOO: AN EXCITED STRING OF BEEPS..

KAM: OK, the navicomputer is right this way. So far, so good -- I hope the others are doing as well....

SCENE 2-20 INTERIOR OF MODON KIRA'S JUNGLE
FORTRESS

Sound: The Emperor continues to pummel a screaming Leia with Force lightning.

THREEPIO: Stop it! You're killing her!

Sound: The door is suddenly thrown open.

HAN: Leia, what's wrong? *You...*

EMPEROR: Stay back, fool! You are meddling in affairs beyond your knowledge!

HAN: (voice deadly cold) All I know is I promised to blast you next time I had the chance.

Sound: Han speed-draws his blaster as the Emperor throws one of his hands out at him.

EMPEROR: I think not.

Sound: With the wail of the Dark Side, Han is violently thrown against the wall.

HAN: (hits wall hard) Ooofff!!!

TOM VEITCH & JOHN WHITMAN

Sound: The Solo children start crying in terror.

EMPEROR: Now, children. You are mine. But which to choose? Ah, of course. The smallest one. The child, Anakin! Your body will serve me well!

BRAND: Not while the Jedi still live!

Sound: Brand jets into the room, igniting his lightsaber.

EMPEROR: You are more machine than Jedi. (summons his power) But mostly, you are a *fool!*

Sound: The Emperor fries the already weakened Brand with Force lightning. Circuits and bits of machinery explode on the cyborg, and Brand crashes to the floor as his lightsaber deactivates. At that moment, Luke runs in.

LUKE: Brand! Are you all right?

BRAND: (in pain, while circuits sizzle) No. I...am...damaged. I...should have waited for you, Luke.

EMPEROR: Ah, my good friend Skywalker. You come at the right moment. I am old and tired. Come. Take the child, if you dare. You can kill me easily.

LUKE: I won't fall into your trap, Palpatine. Death is not the answer for you. You are my prisoner.

EMPEROR: (weak, raspy chuckle) Prisoner? I think not. This child will inherit the rule of the galaxy!

LEIA: (voice strained with pain) No...

EMPEROR: Still alive, little Jedi? I thought I had sent you to your father! No matter. Your child is still mine!

LEIA: Over my dead body!

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Sound: Anakin screams in panic.

HAN: (regaining his feet) No, over *his* dead body!!!

EMPEROR: The smuggler too? It seems I underestimated even you!

HAN: It's the last mistake you'll ever make.

LUKE: HAN, NO!!!

Sound: Han shoots the Emperor three times with his blaster. The old man groans and crumples to the ground. Leia dives and catches little Anakin in her arms.

THREEPIO: The baby --

LEIA: I have him.

LUKE: (stricken) No, Han. Don't you know what you've *done?*

Sound: Anakin continues to cry.

HAN: What's the matter, Luke? Don't you think the time for Jedi battle etiquette is over?

EMPEROR: Ahhhh, I feel it. I am...done. The Corellian has killed me.

Sound: The Emperor's voice begins to have an echo quality as his spirit leaves the clone body, and moves towards Anakin.

EMPEROR: Now my spirit can enter the child, as I have foreseen it...

LEIA: He's...he's vanishing!

EMPEROR'S SPIRIT: What will you do then, Han Solo?

TOM VEITCH & JOHN WHITMAN

Kill your own child? (laughs insanely)

LUKE: This is what I feared.

HAN: What is going on?

LUKE: The Emperor is free of his physical body! He's trying to take control of Anakin!

BRAND: (strained) Give me the boy.

LEIA: Brand...I thought you were...

BRAND: QUICKLY!!! I will shield him.

Sound: Leia hands Anakin to Brand. Palpatine's spirit lunges at Anakin once again, and Brand puts himself between the spirit and the child.

EMPEROR'S SPIRIT: (fighting with Brand's spirit) No! I will take the child. You are not strong enough to defy me!!!

BRAND: I will find the strength!

Sound: Brand and Palpatine's spirits wrestle furiously for control with the Force. Suddenly a victor emerges, and Brand falls to the floor clanking.

HAN: He's gone.

LEIA: What happened?

LUKE: Brand, are you...?

BRAND: I...have the Emperor. He is in me...

LUKE: Can you hold him?

BRAND: I...think so. I.... am dying, Luke, and the Emperor will die with me. He will never, ever return. Farewell, Luke

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Skywalker...

Sound: Brand's machinery stops making noises as he dies. Anakin starts to wail again.

LEIA: Anakin! Oh, Anakin, it's all right...

HAN: Brand saved him!

LEIA: Luke, is it finally over?

Music: Luke's theme from Empire played softly.

LUKE: Almost.

SCENE 2-21 ON THE BRIDGE OF THE ECLIPSE II

Sound: The area around the Eclipse II is filled with pitched space battle noises.

IMPERIAL OFFICER: The Rebel assault continues, Lord T'iaz.

T'IAZ: Prepare to launch the TIE Fighters. We'll wipe those traitors out of existence.

Sound: The Eclipse's engines begin to power up...

T'IAZ: What was that?

IMPERIAL OFFICER: My Lord, the ship is beginning to accelerate. We've lost the helm!

T'IAZ: (annoyed) Override the controls.

IMPERIAL OFFICER: (frantic) Nothing responds! The ship is preparing to jump to hyperspace!

T'IAZ: The Rebels must be onboard! They must have taken

TOM VEITCH & JOHN WHITMAN

control of the ship! What's our heading?

IMPERIAL OFFICER: We're headed.... my Lord! We're headed right for the Galaxy Gun!

Sound: Eclipse II screams away from Onderon and into hyperspace.

SCENE 2-22 INTERIOR OF THE GALAXY GUN

LETH: I just need to re-insert that cron chip. There. I finished, at last! The Bonadan timers have been replaced; the Galaxy Gun is ready to fire! From this moment forth, the Emperor truly has the power to control the galaxy. Now, I'm forever....

Sound: Alarm klaxons sound, as the distant emergence of a ship from hyperspace is heard outside.

LETH: What's this? What's going on?

Sound: The klaxons continue, as Imperial technicians begin yelling and screaming for their lives. Then the Eclipse II crashes at full speed into the Gun, destroying both craft. One of the Galaxy Gun's hyperspace missiles shoots out of the Gun at the last split-second, knocked off-course. The projectile flies into the planet Byss, shattering it into a billion pieces. Silence, and then the Millennium Falcon flies off.

SCENE 2-23 INTERIOR OF THE MILLENNIUM FALCON, MUCH LATER

Sound: Ambient Falcon noises.

THREEPIO: Now, children, keep your hands off the holo table. This is simply no way for young Jedi children to behave...(trails off).

HAN: (walking up) OK, Chewie's got us on course.

CHEWBACCA: GROWLS A GREETING.

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HAN: And we should rendezvous with the fleet in less than an hour.

KAM: Good! I don't think Threepio can manage much longer than that!

LEIA: (laughs) Threepio's happiest when he's got something to worry about.

HAN: I'm just glad the kids are *all* he has to worry about... thanks to Kam and Chewie.

ARTOO: "AHEM..."

LEIA: And you too, Artoo.

CHEWBACCA: ROARS IN AGREEMENT.

KAM: Hey, it was Luke's idea. We just aimed the Emperor's ship towards the Galaxy Gun, and jumped out of there as soon as we could.

LUKE: And it worked. The weapon has been obliterated. The planets of the New Republic are safe.

Music: Last minute of the End Theme starts up, quietly.

LEIA: Is it really finished, Luke? After so many years, have we really won?

LUKE: Yes, Leia, we did it! The Emperor is gone, and we have destroyed his dark Empire forever!

CHEWBACCA: GRUMBLES HAPPILY.

Music: End Theme hits full volume, on through the closing credits.

THE END

EPILOGUE

The Imperial reign of terror has ended. Palpatine will never return, and his spirit will wander forever in the shadowy madness of the evil he embraced. The remnants of the Emperor's fighting force and Dark Side Adepts scatter throughout the galaxy, vying amongst themselves for command.

The leaders of the Rebellion gather in the venerable halls of the Kira fortress on Onderon, where the New Republic is officially reborn under the leadership of Mon Mothma. Leia, as Minister of State, will be her second in command. Reconstruction of the old seat of government on Coruscant will begin immediately, and the Senate regenerated.

It was Leia's hope that Vima-Da-Boda would live to train Han and Leia's children. But she has mysteriously disappeared, and it is not known if she

died or returned to Nar Shaddaa. For Luke Skywalker, it is the end of a struggle that consumed nearly his whole life, and the beginning of a time when he can devote heart and soul to the great and necessary task of restoring the Jedi Knights as guardians of peace and justice throughout the galaxy...

TOM VEITCH & JOHN WHITMAN

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Luke Skywalker-----	John Cygan
Mon Mothma	
Princess Leia-----	Ann Patricio
King Empatajayos Brand	
Han Solo-----	Joe Hacker
See-Threepio	
Kam Solusar-----	Jim Ward
Emperor Palpatine-----	Nick Jameson
Chewbacca-----	Himself
R2-D2-----	Himself

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Engineered by John Kovarek

Sound effects by Ben Burt

Music composed by John Williams. Performed by the
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DARK EMPIRE TRILOGY

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